

# Hulman & Co. bringing Terminal back from grave

Ts MAR 17 1993  
By Howard Greninger  
Tribune-Star

A vacant, historic building in downtown Terre Haute may get new life.

Terminal Arcade Building at 820 Wabash Ave. was deemed unsafe by the city's department of inspection in January.

Kevin H. Forbes, director of design and construction for Hulman & Co., owner of the building, said Monday that a city building permit has been obtained to "shore up the north and south end walls of that building. And that is in preparation for further renovation work that will take place in that building."

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★ Historic Landmarks (w) - Terminal  
New concrete foundation walls will be placed beneath the two end walls of the building to strengthen it structurally. The extent of more renovation work and exact use of the building has not yet been determined by Hulman & Co., Forbes said.

"More than likely it will be enough of a renovation to put several more years into the life of that building and for it to be reutilized," Forbes said.

Some possibilities for the building could be historically related. The building might be used as a museum or part museum and offices for historically related functions, Forbes said.

City building commissioner Richard E. Ford said the city is-

sued a permit March 9. The 90-day permit is for \$20,000 for structural work on the building.

Forbes said structural work should take less than 90 days.

The Terre Haute Terminal Arcade was built in 1911 and contains a facade made of limestone from Bedford. The building opened as the Terre Haute Traction and Light Co. It served as a train station until 1948 and served as a bus terminal until 1972.

The building was among several in Terre Haute to be listed in 1983 on the National Register of Historic Places. It later housed a restaurant/bar called the Terminal.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

# Local attorney will restore landmark

By Gordon Walters

Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

At a special meeting Thursday night, the Memorial Hall Association approved an agreement that would in effect end the slow deterioration of the historic structure.

According to the agreement, local attorney John Kesler will effect what amounts to a complete restoration of Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio St.

Kesler — acting as Memorial Hall Preservation Corp. — promises to begin work on improvements within 30 days from the document's signing and finish restoration no later than three years from the starting date. The date of the actual recording of signatures to the contract was not fixed by the Memorial Hall Association on Thursday.

The agreement indicates Kesler will be responsible for 15 areas of the building's restoration, including replacing the roof, patching and repairing the exterior stucco, shoring up sagging floors, bringing wiring and plumbing up to code and adding up-to-date appurtenances such as air conditioning, tile floors and "modern lighting."

According to a contractor's estimate made in 1988, a complete restoration of Memorial Hall would cost about \$275,000. Members of the association said Kesler plans to use the structure as an office.

Kesler could not be reached for comment Thursday evening, but Memorial Hall Association treasurer Max Miller said the agreement is "a legal change of ownership without the exchange of money. [Kesler] is purchasing the

building for zero dollars, you might say."

Association trustee Fred Sutton said, "I thought John deserved [the building] a long time ago. He was president of the association, and he's wanted it all these years."

Indianapolis-based Historic Landmarks, a non-profit group which is funded by the Lilly Foundation, will, Miller added, have "the legal responsibility to see to it that the hall is restored properly." Because Memorial Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places, its architectural style cannot be altered. In addition, Historic Landmarks will in effect be co-owner of the building; should Kesler complete restoration and decide to part with the building, ownership reverts to Historic Landmarks.

Historic Landmarks western regional representative Bill Dory of Greencastle was pleased with Thursday's development. "It is obviously an important building that ought to be preserved for Terre Haute and for Indiana's early history."

Dorothy Clark, secretary of the association and Vigo County historian, has been among those who have fought to save the hall, which was built in 1835 as one of 14 branches of the State Bank of Indiana. Only three of those banks remain, Clark said, "and we were determined to stick with it."

Clark added, "Mainly I'm relieved we've finally reached this point. The building is what is important, and this is the first good thing to happen in Terre Haute in the way of preservation of historic buildings."

"By golly, we showed them: anything's possible if you just keep your head down."

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# Postcards display Deming of yesteryear

T 3 APR 22 1990

By Jan Buffington  
Vigo County Historical Society

The postcard collection of Paul and Helen Martin now on display at the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley is interesting to me, a relative newcomer to Terre Haute. The buildings that used to be here were magnificent. I cannot believe the number of beautiful structures that no longer grace our city.

One building that escaped the wrecking ball is the Deming Hotel, now known as the Deming Center. It was built in 1913-14 by Demas Deming and served Terre Haute for many years.

The eight-story hotel was managed by the Deming Land Company, and in 1962 was sold to

Hulman and Co. In the mid-1960s, the building was sold to Indiana State University and was used as a men's dormitory. Later, ISU used it as a conference center.

Architects for the building were Holabird and Roche. Holabird was born in Dutchess Co., N.Y., in 1854. He graduated from St. Paul High School in St. Paul, Minn., and also attended U.S. Naval Academy at West Point. Martin Roche was born in 1855 in Cleveland, Ohio. These men built many structures in Chicago, one of them being the Monroe Building on Michigan Avenue.

In 1978, newspapers were filled with the news of the \$4.15 million "Deming Project" taken on by the Bethesda Corp. and the Terre Haute Housing Authority. The Bethesda Corp. was a consortium of eight local lenders. The project

was a partnership between the federal and local governments and the private sector, and a first for Indiana. Upon completion, the Deming Center would contain 109 apartments for the low- to moderate-income elderly and handicapped.

The Martins have several postcards of the Deming Hotel. There are many with views of the exterior from various angles. Also, there are postcards which show the interior of the hotel, including the barber shop, the billiard room, the men's grill or tavern, the writing room, the banquet hall and ballroom, the lounge, and the lobby.

When I work at the museum, I like to listen to the comments made by visitors as they remember the good times they had at the Deming

Hotel. They talk of the beautiful dances they attended in high school, the conventions that took place there, and many other events staged at the Deming. They wonder what is now in the ballroom or what the banquet hall looks like.

What is so wonderful to me is that they can still see the place where all those fond memories began, because of the foresight of the many people who saved the Deming Hotel.

The Martin's postcard collection will be on display in the museum's Vigo Room until the first week in May. It is the perfect way to stroll down memory lane and see the Terre Haute of yesteryear.

☆☆☆

The Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley, 1411 S. Sixth St., is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

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HOTEL DEMING, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

**Still standing:** The Deming Hotel is one of Terre Haute's magnificent old structures.

Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis



# Razing a little history

## As buildings disappear, so does part of Terre

Is NOV 02 1989

The razing of the two buildings at Seventh and Ohio streets will clear a half block of retail and service history in downtown. Much of the rest of retail commerce, financial and service history is gone, and in its place will be different businesses or parking lots which retail firms 25 years ago would have given anything to have.

On the alley, in 1937, behind Merchants National Bank (also known as Rose Court), was the Bomber Bar (originally the Hoosier Tavern), operated for many years by Bob Coates. To the east of the Bomber Bar was one of the city's treasured watering spots — the Rustic Cafe — owned and operated by Billy Joyce. The room itself was filled with antique items, such as an early juke box filled with large metal disks filled with holes. Most of us are familiar with music boxes — the music made by metal prongs

### Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

being plucked, as it were, by holes in metal disks.

The bar itself was very old, as was the decor and the tables and chairs. Joyce may have been on the elderly side, but only in years, not in attitude or spirit.

The printers from The Tribune and The Star considered this bar their own, frequenting it often. When the repeal occurred, Joyce bought several barrels of whiskey from Merchants Distilling Corp. on South First Street. It remained in the rack houses, and when supply in the Rustic ran low, Billy would have a few cases bottled — Rustic Special. It was a bit above average in quality, having aged more than the usual bar whiskey. And, it only got older in the barrels.

When Joyce died, the Rustic was sold, and some local men purchased it, operating it much as Joyce did except adding more food items to a limited menu. Upstairs was Hugh Martin, tailor.

South of the Bomber Bar was the Toasty Shop, owned by Winlow Clark. The shop was most noted for the Toasty Shop Special, a delicious sandwich with Clarky's own dressing.

# Haute's past

Historic Landmarks (W)

Next door south of the Toasty was Berry's Restaurant, which later moved to Main Street between Seventh and Eighth streets. The room was then occupied by Welfare Finance. Merchants Savings & Loan Association was next door south. In the next room was Hornung Shoe Store, owned and operated by Otto Hornung, later joined by his son, Rahe. Above Hornung Shoe Store was C.L. Bartley, auctioneer.

The Bismark Bar & Grill was next door south, and later became the Race Track bar, operated by Al Hodgini. On the corner of Seventh and Ohio was Central Federal Savings & Loan Association and Clay Ladd Insurance. Fifty years ago, savings associations also had insurance businesses, but the state Legislature stopped that practice, and the two businesses had to separate.

About 30 years ago, there were few changes in this block, which is now being developed into a parking lot for the Merchants Bank. Above the Bomber Bar in 1954 was the Manhattan Club, operated by George Grammel. The Toasty Shop was still operating, Haig Display was above the shop, and Kadel Photographers were next door. Welfare Finance had moved into the room formerly occupied by Berry's Restaurant, and Hornung & Hahn Shoe Store occupied two rooms, one room for children's shoes. Wright Dental Labs was above the shoe store.

Joining Hornung in the shoe business was Ray Hahn, who later acquired the sole ownership of the firm and later moved to Meadows Shopping Center. Active in community affairs, Hahn was president of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the school board and lost a very close race to Ralph Tucker for mayor.

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# Missing timepiece returns to Wabash

Historic  
LANDMARKS  
(WV)

NOV 19 1989  
By Dave Delaney  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Heads are turning these days to look at a clock standing tall in front of the Morris Plan Co. of Terre Haute Inc. at 817 Wabash Ave.

Once something of a landmark, the clock has been missing from the downtown scene since the mid-1970s. It was removed at that time from the front of what was then the Fort Harrison Savings Association at 724 Wabash Ave.

Now mounted atop a 12-foot high metal pole, the clock's return solves a downtown mystery.

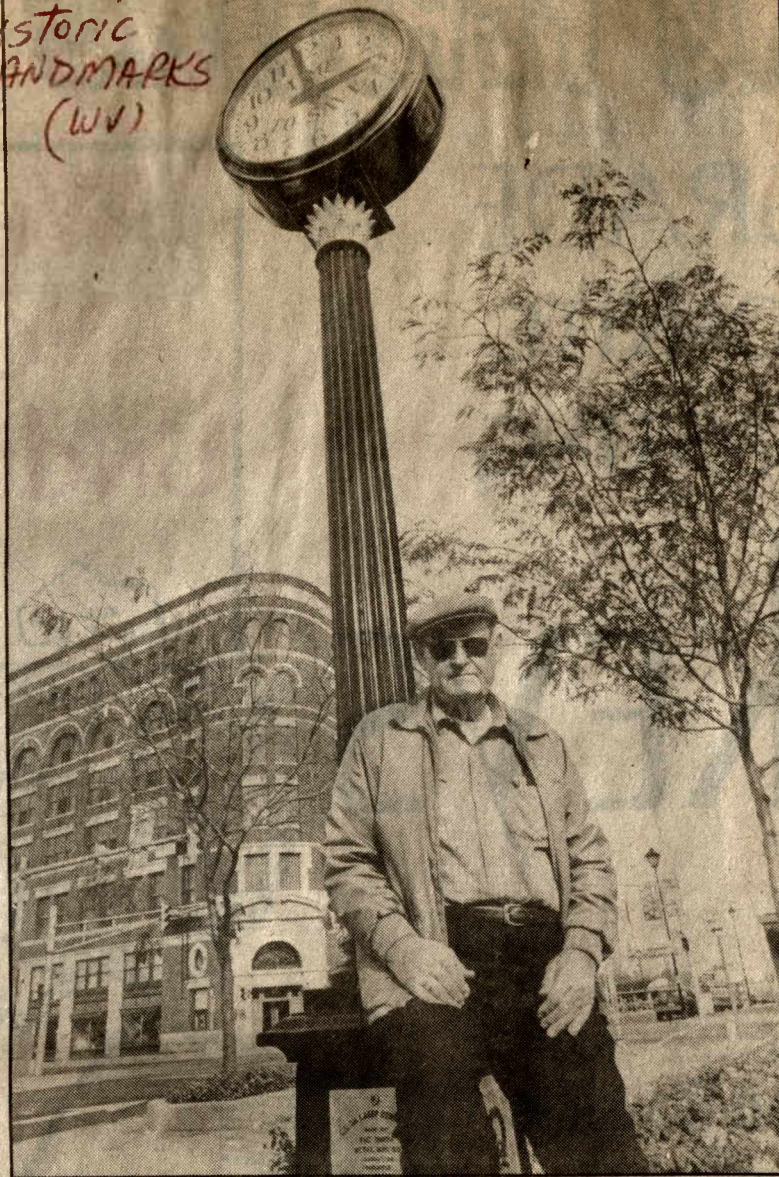
"No one knew where it was," said Homer Taylor, 79, who has spent the last 57 years working for the Hulman family. He's part of the maintenance department for their financial holdings.

Taylor said Tony Hulman's granddaughter, Josie Krisiloff, president of the Morris Plan, recently made finding the missing clock a pet project. "Josie is the one who got after it," he said. "She ran it down . . . it had been at Don Smith's Terre Haute First Lodge."

Printed in big letters on the face of the clock is the message, "Time to save." Taylor said the clock is dated 1908 and was built by International Time Recording Co.

Leslie McBroom, treasurer of Morris Plan, said a lot of people seem to enjoy having the clock back on Wabash Avenue.

"One lady called up and said she remembered the clock from when she was a child," McBroom



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter  
**Standing tall:** Homer Taylor put clock in working order.

said.

Inside the Morris Plan, the outdoor time piece has a companion clock built in the traditional grandfather clock motif. That clock is encased in a tall oak cabinet 4 feet high. Taylor explained it was to have been installed inside the Morris Plan building soon after the outside clock was in place.

According to Krisiloff, it was Taylor who got the old clock back in tip-top running condition. The long-time Hulman employee has a knack for working on electrical gadgets.

It was he who built the mechanism for the 33-light scoring tower at another Hulman property — the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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# Cracked cornerstone yields look at history of Oddfellows, city

By Dave Delaney  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The Oddfellows Temple at 22 S. Eighth St. will be nothing more than a pile of rubble within a week, while a series of recent photographs and the contents of a copper box found Monday become part of local history.

"It'll all be cleaned up in a few weeks," said Joe Haley of Haley Bros. Construction Corp., whose firm is dismantling the three-story, yellow-brick building.

A copper time capsule was pulled out of the building's cracked cornerstone Monday. "They had to chip the box out of the concrete," said David Buchanan, executive director of the Vigo County Historical Society.

The time capsule is in the office of Joseph A. Cloutier of Hulman &

Co., which owns the building.

"There are some coins in the box and some old copies of the Terre Haute newspapers," said Homer Taylor, head of maintenance for the company. Buchanan said the box contained lists of long-gone area Oddfellows organizations.

As for the pictures taken of the building, Buchanan said: "We want visual records for history."

The city condemned the 81-year-old building in 1983, describing it as a fire trap and health hazard because of the flocks of pigeons roosting on it.

Taylor said he doesn't know the fate of the lot on which the Oddfellows Temple sits, but it could become a parking lot.

Hulman purchased the property in 1982. The U.S. Park Service determined the building was eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in

late 1961.

Assessed valuation of the property in 1983 was \$49,060.

The Oddfellows were once the largest fraternal organization in the United States, with more than 1.5 million members. The Rebekahs, the female counterpart of the lodge, had the most women, with 666,537.

In 1910, Indiana ranked fifth in the nation in Oddfellow membership.

"The Oddfellows were real big here in 1909 when the new building was built," said LaVerne Cottrell, mother of Robert Cottrell, director of Cottrell Funeral Home at Rosedale.

She said it was still active until World War II.

"It's hard to tell why the Masons, which is a similar organization, prospered and the Oddfellows around here didn't," Cottrell said.

\* Historic Landmarks (WV) - Oddfellows Temple

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# Time for well-deserved vacation

## Rowe's refurbished building nearly finished

By Kelly Porter  
Tribune-Star Business Editor

Mike Rowe is ready for a vacation.

After working 15- and 16-hour days for more than six months, Rowe believes he deserves a break from all the hustle and bustle at Ninth and Poplar streets.

The problem? It wouldn't last, and Rowe knows it.

"The last time I went on a vacation, I'd only been in Florida two days when my wife caught me speculating on some real estate there," he said laughing.

A workaholic, you think? Not really. Rowe just has a hard time relaxing, especially when there's so much to do.

"I'm just the type of person who likes to get things done," he said. "I don't like to let things sit empty or half-finished. I guess I just like to slow down enough to catch my breath."

Catching his breath is what Rowe plans to do — for a couple of days at least — while he contemplates his future plans for the once-condemned E. Bleemel Flour and Feed building at 904-916 Poplar.

So far, Rowe and his small crew of helpers have managed to transform that building from a run-down eyesore into a source of community pride.

Exterior walls that just eight months ago were a peeling mess now sport fresh coats of white paint, black shutters, gray windowsill accents and awnings and other maroonish paint highlights.



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

**New life:** Structure at intersection of Ninth and Poplar streets enhanced.

There's also a hand-painted sign on the building's southside that is "just as it was in 1875," Rowe said.

On the inside, grease- and grime-covered hardwood floors have been cleaned, stripped and refinished; walls have been painted; stairways repaired; and efficiency- and one-bedroom apartments made usable again.

There's no way to adequately describe all the work Rowe and Co. have done unless you saw the building before and could see it now.

"I'm happy with the results so far," a beaming Rowe said Friday, "but I'm not really surprised. But I guess you could say I didn't anticipate exactly how large a project this is; 13,500 square feet is a lot to bring back to life."

Indeed.

But Rowe is doing one heck of a

job of giving the building just what he intended six months ago — a lot of character.

Doors at each entrance came from the since-demolished Oddfellow's building. Marble insets in the main Poplar Street entryway are pieces of windowsills from the old Fairbanks Elementary School. And some of the woodwork and hardwood flooring came from the Oddfellow's as well.

On the residential side, which dates back to 1850, Rowe has renovated five apartments and rented four of them. Inside, lighted ceiling fans and decorative border-type wallpaper are common throughout.

An upstairs sixth apartment won't be that for much longer. Rowe plans to use it as an entryway to a second-floor loft area that may be used for commercial

purposes.

It's all a far cry from the automobile-repair business that occupied the building for 35 years prior to Rowe's ownership. And that's the way Rowe likes it.

"I've got big plans for this place," he said. "Eventually — when everything is ready and I'm ready — I'd like to see an antique shop, wood shop, or even a clock shop in the areas we're planning for commercially."

"I'm leaving my options open on the commercial side of things, though," he said. "I don't want people in here who are going to want to hang out signs or leave after three months. I want businesses that are compatible with the building's character."

Rowe says it will be "a while" before those commercial prospects develop, mostly because he wants to take things a little slower now.

Working non-stop at a hurried pace has its advantages, Rowe said — like getting paying tenants to offset some of the costs that are mounting; giving impromptu tours to people who are "just passing by and interested"; and watching a dream become reality pretty quick.

Slowing down also has advantages, Rowe adds. It leaves time for all those other renovation projects currently on backburners; adding all the "finishing touches" to the apartment; and digging into the Bleemel building's history to find out more about the site of Terre Haute's first brewery.

It also may mean that Rowe has time for a vacation.

"Maybe the Bahamas," he said, chuckling. "Maybe not. There's still a lot to do here."



# Seeing is believing

When Mike Rowe starts a project, his friends just shake their heads as imagination evolves

By Kelly Porter  
Tribune-Star Business Editor

T - MAR 09 1990

Some people think Mike Rowe is nuts. Whenever he starts a new project, his friends come to take a look around. And they always shake their heads and smile.

"They tell me that they'll have to come back and see it when it's finished," Rowe said. "They're always disbelievers at first. I guess in the beginning, you just have to have a lot of imagination."

Rowe's got plenty.

A full-time Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance representative by trade, Rowe — a thirtysomethingish Terre Haute man who's just as comfy in worn blue jeans as a jacket and tie — has a flair for the imaginative when it comes to architecture and design.

He uses his part-time talent to renovate historic buildings — old, rundown structures in need of repair — to turn them into community assets instead of eyesores.

So far, he and his renovation crew of a few men have managed to breathe life into several structures in Terre Haute's Farrington Grove Historical District.

And they're starting in on a monumental project downtown — a once-condemned commercial/residential structure that dates to 1850. If Rowe's decorating ideas are applied — from start to finish — the building at 904-916 Poplar St. is going to be something to see when it's finished.

Already, the outside is being spruced up, something Rowe says he likes to do for the people who live in the neighborhoods in which he's working. Rowe hopes to make significant improvements to the building's exterior within 30 to 90 days.

As for the inside, well, Rowe says there's no sure way to estimate exactly how long it will take to turn it into something presentable. He's hoping that it won't take *that* long.

"But you can never tell. There are all sorts of cans of worms that we could open up in the process" of renovation, he said. "We're just going to have to see what happens."

Rowe didn't plan to get as involved in historic renovation as he now is. It all happened by accident, he said, when he was looking for some space to use as an office.

When he found what he was looking for — the right size and site — Rowe said he renovated it . . . and that's how it all got started.

"I'd rather do this than push paper on a desk anyway," Rowe added. "This gives me a huge sense of accomplishment. It makes me feel like I'm doing something for the community."



ROWE

Rowe said he bought the Poplar Street property a couple of months ago from another local resident who had operated an automobile-repair business there for about 35 years.

Rowe said he first realized he wanted to work on the building when, by chance, he drove by the Ninth and Poplar site and noticed some faint lettering on the building's

southside.

Through the faded and peeling paint, Rowe said he made out the words "E. Bleemel Flour and Feed." He researched the building's history with help from the Vigo County Historical Society, and decided that he liked the structure's "character."

Since then, it's "all kind of been a blur of activity."

"We've been working non-stop, all of us hauling out stuff we find and separating what we think is interesting or unique to this building's history. The finished product is going to be sort of a tribute to this building's history. We're going to try to maintain as much of its character as possible throughout."

The commercial part of the building — before it

was an auto-repair shop, was a Packard car dealership, Rowe said he found out, and before that it was the feed and flour sales operation of one E. Bleemel.

The site also may have housed one of Terre Haute's earlier breweries and a blacksmith, from the pieces of paper and bits of history that Rowe and his workers have been able to pick up here and there.

The residential part of the structure — the side facing South Ninth Street — has six efficiency and/or one-bedroom apartments in it. Rowe plans to restore those as well, and eventually rent them out.

What's it all going to cost? Rowe says he's not sure. He's confident it's not beyond his reach, though.

As Rowe's plans take shape, people can look forward to seeing the building's original sign — the one with Bleemel's name on it — repainted on the Poplar Street side.

Other plans call for turning the former "auto showroom" part of the structure into a lobby area for apartment tenants, complete with marble flooring from the old Fairbanks School.

That lobby also will have on display antiques and artifacts that Rowe and his men found during renovation.

Those articles will include a diary of one of the Bleemel children dating to 1905; old hubcaps apparently from the Packard dealership; a 35-year-old refrigerator that still works; and a variety of wood carvings dating to the Civil War that Rowe and his men uncovered as they were clearing away debris and trash.

To make the building as authentic as possible — from top to bottom and front to back — Rowe said he plans to use pictures of the site that were taken in 1930 as a rough guide.

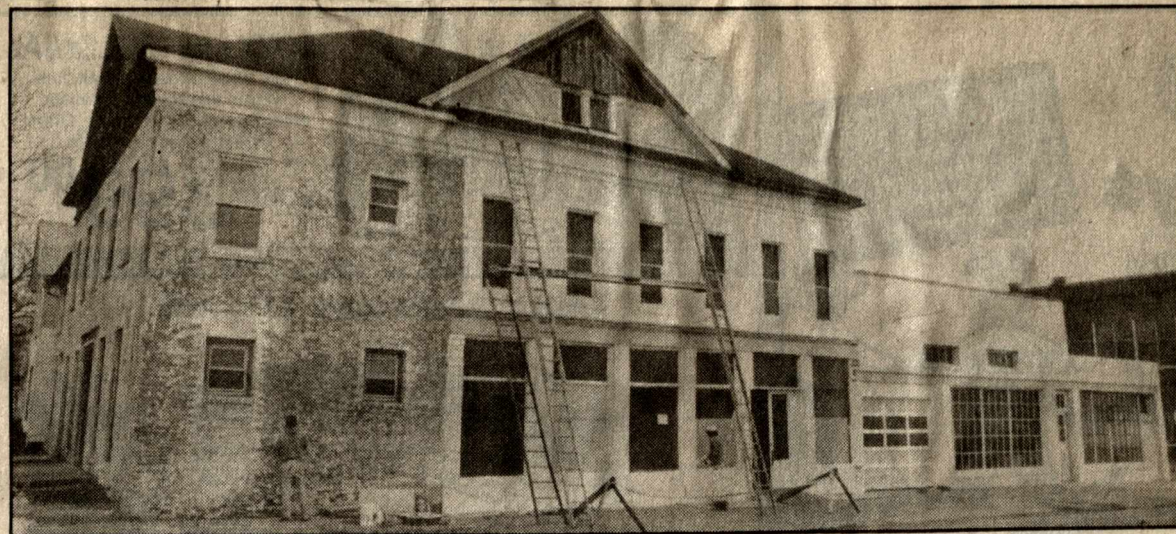
The rest, he said, he'll leave to his imagination. "It's a huge project, but I just hate to see so many buildings like this get torn down. This is part of Terre Haute's past, and hopefully I can help make it part of the future."

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Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

**Fresh:** Workers scrape, apply paint to Poplar Street side of Rowe's downtown project.



## Historical treasure

✓ \* Historic Landmarks (HL) - Memorial Stadium

# Memorial Stadium sports rich tradition

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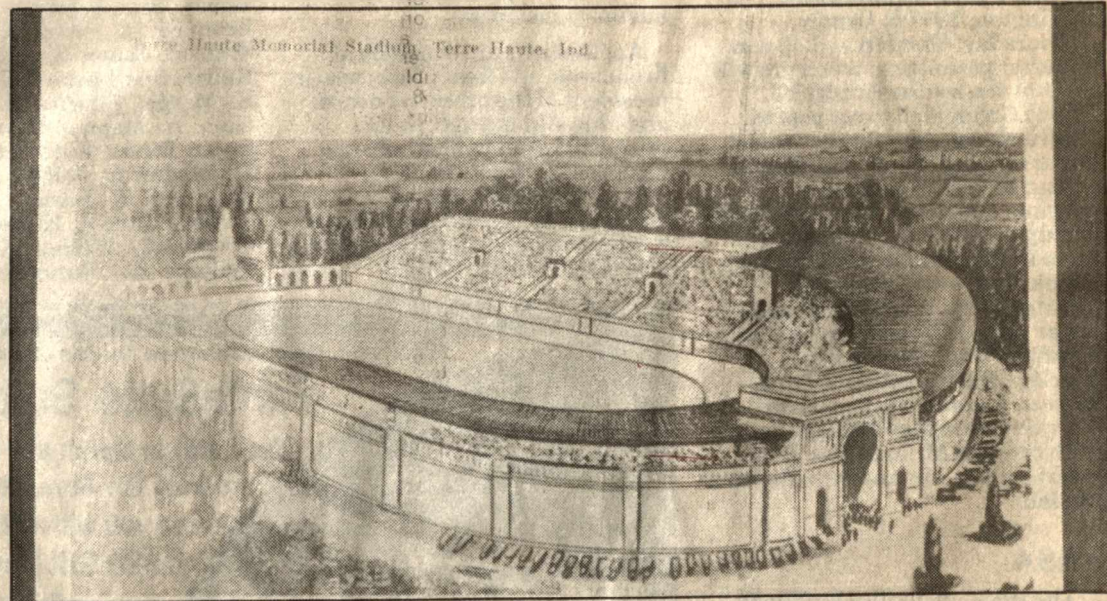
By Tim Weir and Cindy Weir  
Vigo County Historical Society

"The new municipal stadium at Stadium Park on East Wabash Avenue is rapidly nearing completion. Next year (1925) it will furnish the Terre Haute Three-I league baseball team with an athletic field which will be larger than any of the big league teams in either circuit with the exception of Yankee Stadium in New York." This quote is from a local newspaper from 1924.

Memorial Stadium, as the name implies, was built as a memorial tribute to World War I servicemen from Vigo County. The Triumphal Arch — which constitutes the memorial proper — was constructed of stone at an original cost of \$90,000. George Stoner of the firm of Shourds and Stoner Company was the architect in charge of the project.

The structure dwarfed all other buildings or arenas in the area both in overall size and seating capacity. Its total length from northeast to southwest was 600 feet with a width at the widest part of 375 feet. The original seating capacity was in excess of 10,000 with 9,000 grandstand seats and 1,200 movable box seats on the ground.

The press stand was located on the topmost peak of the roof for greatest visibility. The foul lines were so constructed that a fair ball could be hit into the last section of the bleachers on either side. It was even thought that Terre Haute might rival New York in the developing of a "Babe Ruth" with his grandstand home runs.



Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

**A tribute:** Terre Haute Memorial Stadium was built in 1924 as a tribute to soldiers from Vigo County who served in World War I. In size, it was second only to Yankee Stadium in New York.

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It was one of the first stadiums of its type to be built in this country. Referring to the Terre Haute Stadium in 1947, George Trautman, former president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, called it the finest in Class B baseball, superior to many in larger cities.

Memorial Stadium was completed late in the fall of 1924, but the official dedication and opening game took place the following spring on May 5, 1925.

And what an opening day it was, as described by a spectator on that Monday afternoon. "Nine thousand cheering men, women and children transformed the new municipal stadium from a colossal horseshoe of concrete and steel into a living memorial to Vigo County's war heroes and a monument to a new era of sportsmanship."

The new stadium had been built on the former site of the old Vigo County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds with its famous one-mile trotter track. The old four-corner track had been a horseracing center in this part of the Midwest.

The spectator continued: "No artist could paint such a picture, as when the huge bowl seemed practically filled with swaying colors and various hues. The dark clothes of the men contrasting the bright colorful attire of the women, the gaily decorated boxes, flowing banners, Old Glory flapping in the breeze and the sun shining."

And what a game ... 11 innings ... a sportswriter's dream. "Big Jim" Elliott was in

the pitchers box, with Nat Turner at the bat, "Cat" Clanton picking them out of the air and dust on first base and Joe Wyatt scoring the first home run of the game and George Wuestling dropping one in the rightfield bleachers for a home run in the ninth inning.

Everyone who was anyone was there ... K.M. Landis, baseball commissioner; Ora Davis, the mayor, who threw the opening pitch of the game. Business was at a standstill throughout the city. All the schools were dismissed and truly all roads led to the stadium. All the civic clubs had reserved boxes. Most of the major and minor baseball teams had scouts in the crowd. Terre Haute was the place to be.

For many years the stadium served as the home field for the Terre Haute Three-I team, the Phillies. It hosted local high school and college football, baseball and soccer games as well. Later a golf course was added.

After World War II, the facility was used less and less and the need for major repairs became increasingly apparent. The last major improvements to the building had been in the last years of the administration of Vern McMillan in the fall of 1947. At that time, a new roof was installed and the building and seating were painted.

Under Mayor Ralph Tucker in the 1950s, the building fell into disrepair, and because of lack of use, seemed to no longer be a paying or self-sustaining proposition.

By the mid-1960s, the city council was forced to make a decision on the fate of the Memorial Stadium, the same stadium which just 40 years before had been the pride of the city.

The city park department estimated that necessary repairs and remodeling costs for the building would be a minimum of \$150,000. The

alternative, if no other governmental unit wanted the site, would be to tear it down. Mayor Tucker told a meeting of university, city and county officials that it was impossible for the city to maintain the structure with no more use than it received.

Indiana State University expressed minimal interest. In November 1966, the city council and the Vigo County Board of Commissioners signed a 99-year lease with ISU, turning the operation and maintenance of the stadium over to the university.

ISU presented a multi-phase remodeling plan. Renovation began in 1967 with the razing of an older portion of seating, replacing it with new semi-permanent seating and installing the world's finest university-owned outdoor Astro Turf playing surface. Cost estimates have been placed at round \$2 million with no state funds used.

Alan Rankin, president of the university, assured Terre Haute that a coming phase of remodeling would include renovation of the old stadium archway, erected as a memorial to local servicemen.

By 1969 most of the old building had been replaced, new locker rooms built, and seating capacity increased to over 20,000 complying with a new athletic conference ruling passed the same year. Over 44 years after its triumphant opening day, little remained of the original structure but the Memorial Arch.

Even though the stadium today looks very little like the artist's rendering of the original 1924 structure, Memorial Stadium has started a new phase of usefulness and, hopefully, will house sporting events and colorful, enthusiastic crowds of fans for many generations to come. And the Memorial Arch will remain a proud tribute to our Vigo County war heroes.



# Buildings tumble, memories remain

*\* Historic Landmarks (WV)*  
T: APR 23 1990  
The razing of two more old buildings in Terre Haute brings to mind the downtown of years ago — when there were shops and stores and parking problems and people who were involved and concerned.

The Odd Fellows building at Eighth and Ohio streets had many tenants over the years — the Odd Fellows Lodge being on the third floor with a large meeting room and small offices. Various tenants occupied the second floor with doctors, lawyers and insurance men moving in and out. One of those I recall on the first floor was McCrory and Pickett in the first room on the alley selling radios and doing radio repair. Allen & Steen Acceptance Corp. was in the corner office with loans and insurance. Pearl Allen and Wayne Bradfield were there.

The Eighth and Main building which housed Jim's Tux Shop and One-Hour Cleaners for many years was the location for the Kaybee Store many years ago. A tavern was also in the room for a while.

The new Morris Plan location was the Early Wheels Museum immediately prior to this remodeling. The museum was established by Tony Hulman to exhibit some of the many old cars he had. The bulk of the old-car inventory was in the Speedway Museum in Indianapolis. When the museum here closed, the inventory was moved to Indianapolis.

Years ago, the site was the location of the American Theater. When the theater opened it had first-run pictures, but in later years, B-pictures, second-run and westerns were featured. Prior to 1929, there was a small band in the pit. During those years all theaters had at least a piano playing to accompany the silent pictures. The Liberty, Grand, Indiana and Hippodrome theaters all had small bands. Vaudeville at the Indiana and Hippodrome (now the Scottish Rite Cathedral) required a band. But the Grand was the first to install sound.

The old Liberty Theater is now the press room of The Tribune-Star, and the small room on the corner (also part of the press room) was the Olson-Ebann jewelry store.

The vacant lot at Ninth and Main (near Morris Plan) was the home of a Gillis Drug

## Main Street



By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

Store and Jensen Bros. appliance store and pool room. There was also another pool room on this site, next door to Morris Plan. There were two pool rooms west of Morris Plan, a tavern and a Steak 'n Shake on the corner, formerly the home of Patsy's Caramel Corn shop.

Across the street was a lounge owned by Steve Oltean and his sister. The two later took over the Idaho theater, remodeling it into a nightclub. Prior to the tavern at Ninth and Main was McMillan's Sports, founded by Vern McMillan, later mayor and founder of the Midwest Semi-pro Baseball Tourney.

There were other shops west of the corner to the terminal, the depot for the many interurbans that operated to and from Indianapolis, Paris, Clinton and Sullivan. Later it was a bus station and is now a restaurant.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library



# Old Union Church still part of community

Ts JUN 03 1990

*Historic Landmarks (WS) Old Union Church*

By Mark Eikelman  
Vigo County Historical Society

A newspaper article about sites to be visited on a historical tour in 1936 lists "three of the most historic sites and buildings in Terre Haute and the vicinity, the site of old Fort Harrison . . . The King's Daughter's and Son's Home for the Aged . . . and Markle's Mill."

Though two of these locales are well-known by area residents, the other is virtually unknown. The King's Daughter's and Son's Home for the Aged building still exists, passed by thousands each day unaware of its former uses and significance.

In July 1838, the first meeting was conducted which eventually resulted in the building of Union Church in late 1841 when Vigo County was little more than 20 years old. It was built as a multi-denominational church and meeting house for the people of the Otter Creek area.

Frederick Markle, son of Major Abraham Markle, was among those instrumental in providing this place of coming together for the Otter Creek community.

The structure itself was built in a subtle Greek Revival style popular in the 1830s and 1840s. It is constructed of hand-hewn timbers held together with wooden pins. All materials were from the immediate area — at the time a vast tulip-poplar forest. Oak and black walnut also were used. The poplar Greek pilasters were the pride of the builders because of the little money available at that time



**The history continues:** Old Union Church was built late in 1841 to serve the Otter Creek community.

for such ornamentation.

This building was used by many denominations through the turn-of-the-century. By 1910, the church was no longer in regular use. By 1914, it was falling into disrepair.

The structure was turned over to The Inasmuch Circle of the King's Daughters, a religious society of women that had grown out of a Sunday school class at the church. The building had been constructed

by their fathers. Mary Rankin Orth was president at that time. Mrs. Condit (Condit House) was also a president of the organization. Mrs. Filbeck (The Filbeck Hotel) also was a prominent member.

The King's Daughters worked for

many years doing charitable work. In 1929, money willed to the group was used to remodel the church building to be used as a home for the aged as well as a meeting place. Among the changes, the windows were shortened, the ceiling was lowered, and a basement was added. At one time, 16 people lived there.

Because of war conditions, the building was sold in 1947 to a relative of the third generation of Orth's to be associated with Old Union Church of North Terre Haute. The new owner was a butcher and grocer who used part of the space for a store and the rest for a residence. The structure is now a private residence and is still owned by heirs of the grocer's wife.

Old Union was the birthplace of Rose Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, The Park Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, and The Christian Church of North Terre Haute. The latter still exists as The North Terre Haute Christian Church, and The Forest Park Bible Church occupies the Park Avenue Methodist Episcopal building with a congregation that grew out of Methodists and Baptists that originally shared the church.

Some 150 years later, Old Union is still providing a home for someone and is still contributing to the Otter Creek community through these two congregations.

The Old Union Church of North Terre Haute is located north of the Otter Creek bridge on Clinton Road.

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# Dream House landed in Terre Haute

SEP 16 1990

By David M. Buchanan  
Executive Director,  
Vigo County Historical Society

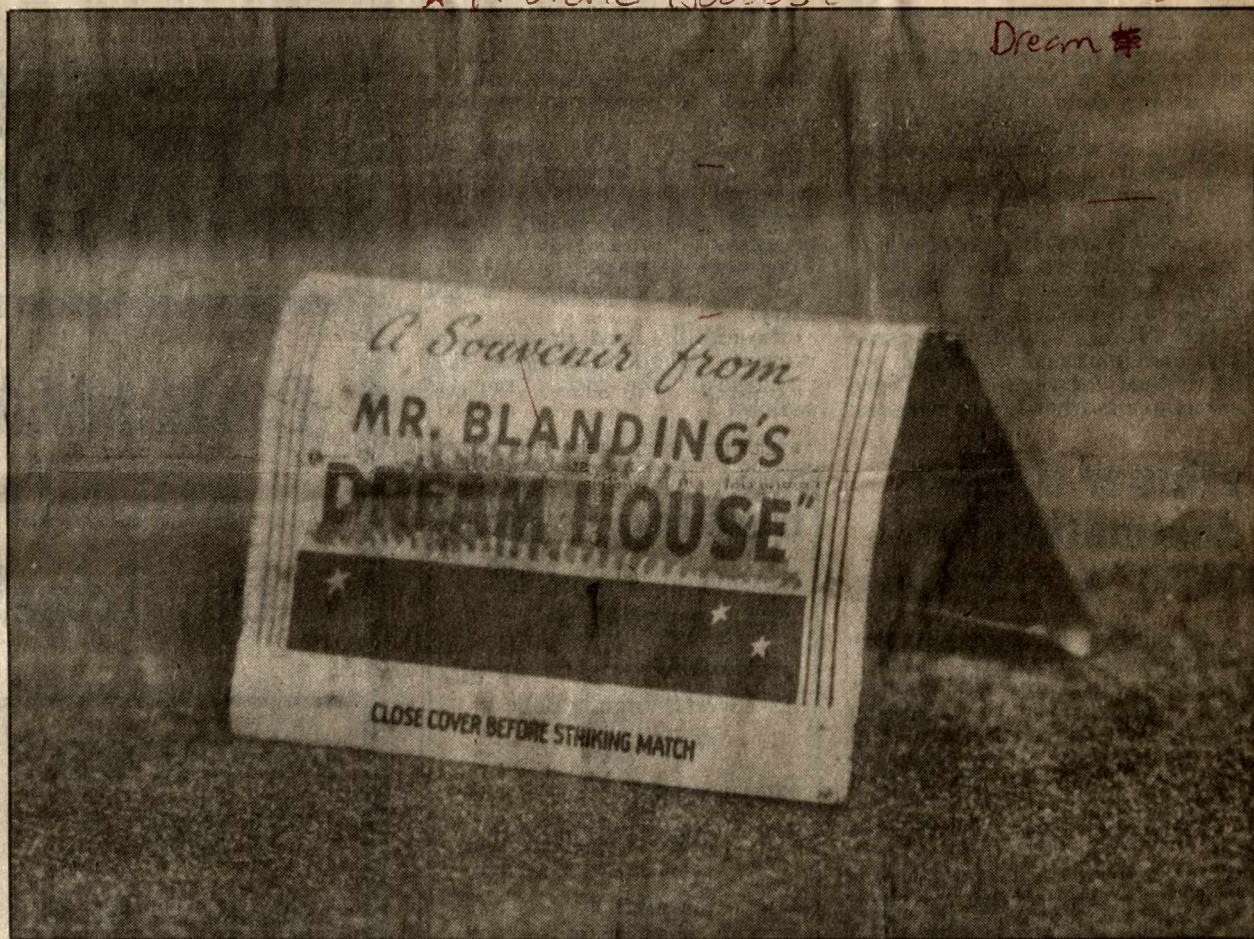
When Eric Hodgins started his own dream home in Connecticut, it is unlikely he thought it would lead to a best-selling book, a movie and 76 new homes.

It did, and one of those homes was built in Terre Haute in 1948. The matchbook pictured here is a souvenir of the premier grand-opening of that home.

Hodgins' experiences during the construction of his home led to his decision to write a book. The book proved to be such a success that RKO studios used it to make a movie called "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House." Its starring roles were held by Myrna Loy, Melvin Douglas and Cary Grant, who played the title role.

With the news of the success of the book and the upcoming release of the movie, building contractors all over the country contacted the RKO and asked for permission to build a model of the home in their area. The studio agreed with the requirement the house be built according to the plans drawn up for the movie version of the home.

Seventy-six home builders nationwide, including the Newlin-Johnson Development Co. of Terre Haute, agreed to abide by that limitation, and set about planning the construction of the local Blanding's home.



**Grand-opening souvenir:** This matchbook is a souvenir from the grand opening of "Mr. Blanding's Dream House" in Terre Haute. The home was built in 1948, one of 76 nationwide patterned after the home in the movie, "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House."

Tribune-Star

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Twenty-eight local firms that worked to build the home are listed on the inside cover of the matchbook. (Of those companies, only six still exist, and one of those has changed its name.) Their announced intent was to show innovative trends in new home construction.

The home also had a benefit for the community. Every visitor had to deposit 25 cents as an entrance fee to see the home. Twenty-one cents was donated to the Community Chest, and four cents went to federal taxes. The Community Chest's announced fund-raising goal for 1948 was \$200,000.

The house was opened to the public on Sunday, Oct. 10, 1948. The Terre Haute Tribune for that

day devoted more than 10 pages to the house, including advertisements from companies that had worked on the home, and feature stories about the construction, decoration, appointments and landscaping, as well as articles about the people who helped build it.

According to one of the articles, the home in Terre Haute was the only one with an all-steel frame construction. The other homes used a conventional wooden frame.

The steel studs were made locally and provided by Stran Steel. The basement's ceiling and the walls in the garage were left exposed so people could see that the home was built with a steel frame. There definitely would be no worries about termites in this home.

Special features included an

automatic garage door opener, a unique enough feature that the writer felt he had to explain that its purpose was to open the garage door without the driver getting out from behind the wheel.

The home also had an in-house intercom called a "Teletalk." There was a station on each floor, in the master bedroom and the nursery.

Films were being shown on a 16-millimeter projector in the basement. Hollywood was no longer the film capital of the world. Now the average family could film their own "epics."

The Dream House was completely furnished and landscaped when it opened its doors. There was even a brand-new Packard, complete with the garage door's remote control, sitting in the driveway.

Those who wanted to compare the local home with the movie's version had only to go to the Indiana Theatre. "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" opened there that same Sunday.

The Dream House still stands at 24th and Ohio, a tribute to its builders, the community, and, of course, to the man who started it all, Eric Hodgins. One has to wonder if he may be one of the few who, after all of the trials and tribulations of building a new home, decided it really was worth it.

☆☆☆

**The Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley, 1411 S. Sixth St., is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.**



# Woman restores piece of history

## Archer House retains grand past, adds modern comforts

TS FEB 02 1992  
By Rosie Blankenship  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

MARSHALL, Ill. — Standing at the entrance of the Archer House Hotel, it's almost possible to see a beautiful lady in Victorian dress descending the elegant stairway.

One can imagine that she soon will be attending a social in the ballroom on the other side of the foyer or perhaps meeting a gentleman for a walk in downtown Marshall.

The ghosts of 150 years past fill the rooms of the opulent hotel, located at 717 Archer Ave. Legends about famous visitors to the house abound, including probably true stories of Abraham Lincoln and Grover Cleveland sleeping there. The spirits of the special visitors or Marshall community leaders are immortalized with rooms named in their honor.

The Illinois landmark has been through at least five owners and numerous renovations in the past century and a half. In November 1990, Charlene Brand of Terre Haute took over ownership of the building and immediately began to restore the hotel. The extensive remodeling was mostly completed by November 1991, and the hotel opened for business once again in December. There also will be a grand-opening ceremony this spring.



Welcoming: A historical marker is posted near the front door.

Tribune-Star/Joe Swisher

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Community Affairs File



The Archer House Hotel, named for Col. William Archer who built the house, is listed with the National Register of Historic Places. A former owner told the National Register that the building is the oldest hotel in the state of Illinois still in operation.

If Brand has her way, the hotel will be in operation for a long time to come.

Brand has traveled extensively and has stayed in many bed and breakfasts in the United States. As a professional interior designer, the historic hotels interested her and she considered opening her own as she approached retirement.

"I have been traveling around

for the past 15 years trying to decide if this is what I wanted to do," she said. "I'm not a person who would ever want to totally retire. I have worked all of my life. I am a people-person and have never looked forward to retirement."

When Brand found out that the Archer House Hotel was going to be sold, she jumped at the chance to buy it. She has a special attachment to the hotel — her grandparents owned it during the early 1900s when it was named the St. James Hotel.

Brand wanted to make her hotel as comfortable as possible. She incorporated many things that she felt some bed and breakfasts neglect, including beds with down comforters and soft couches and televisions in every room.

Brand drew on her extensive travels and experience as an interior designer to put the extra special touches in the rooms of the hotel.

And there is a story to be told for every room. Visitors can choose to sleep in nine rooms, including the Abraham Lincoln

room, the Gypsy Queen suite, the Jimmy Jones room, the Jessie James room, or the John Marshall room, honoring the man for which Marshall was named.

Visitors also can sit and chat in the St. James Parlor, sun themselves in the Carl Albert Solarium, eat in the National Dixie Dining Room or conduct a business meeting in the Cumberland Trail Room. Newlyweds can enjoy their privacy in a lavishly decorated bridal suite — white silk roses and all.

The extensive renovations to the structure included turning 33 rooms on the second floor into eight, the addition of a solarium and work on the supporting beams, floors, wiring and plumbing.

Brand did not keep the hotel in total 1840s fashion. She updated the hotel with the addition of a room accessible by wheelchairs, a laundry room and exercise facilities.

She insisted that quality work be done throughout, even if it meant uncovering more work, she

said.

"I told the contractor, 'We will not be here in 150 years, but we can rest assured that the Archer House will remain,'" she said.

Although Brand did not want to disclose the purchase price of the building or the cost of the renovations, saying it's "bad business" to do so, she said she "got a deal."

A tour of the hotel can quickly turn into a Clark County history lesson. Brand loves telling visitors about the history behind the names of each room and about the people who have visited throughout history.

Brand advocates the preservation of historic buildings and hopes the renovation of the Archer House Hotel will encourage others to save other landmarks at Marshall. She would like to see the city attract tourists and thinks the Archer House Hotel will help do that.

"The acceptance has been terrific," she said. "It has added a facility to Marshall that can be enjoyed," she said. "I think that we are gaining back some of the charm of Marshall."



\* Historic Landmarks (W)

# Old gyms discover there is life after high school

By Mark Bennett  
Tribune-Star

Thirty-three years after he strolled the same floor as a graduate in 1960, Jim Page feels right at home in the old Concannon High School gym. He should. It is his home.

**SUNDAY SPECIAL**

Actually, Page and his family own the whole school and live upstairs, where classrooms have been converted into modern living quarters. Downstairs, sits the time-worn gymnasium, where Page ate popcorn, chatted with classmates and cheered on the Cannons bas-

ketball team all those years ago.

Why would a completely sensible elementary school art teacher pick such an unusual place to live? As real estate folks might say, the gym might have been the selling point.

"If we hadn't bought it, they would have surely demolished it," Page says, sitting on a chair where the bleachers once stood. Nearby, a heat vent blows warm air across the cold court, its weak boards patched temporarily with heavy-duty tape.

"It's a struggle to maintain it," he adds, "but how often does a guy have his own gym?"

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Not often. There aren't many old ones to go around.

Most old high school gyms die under wrecking balls, triggered by consolidation. Others get a second life when schools merge into bigger ones, leaving the old ones to serve as junior high and elementary schools. Only a rare few find life after high school by themselves.

Concannon, Valley and Glenn are three such survivors.

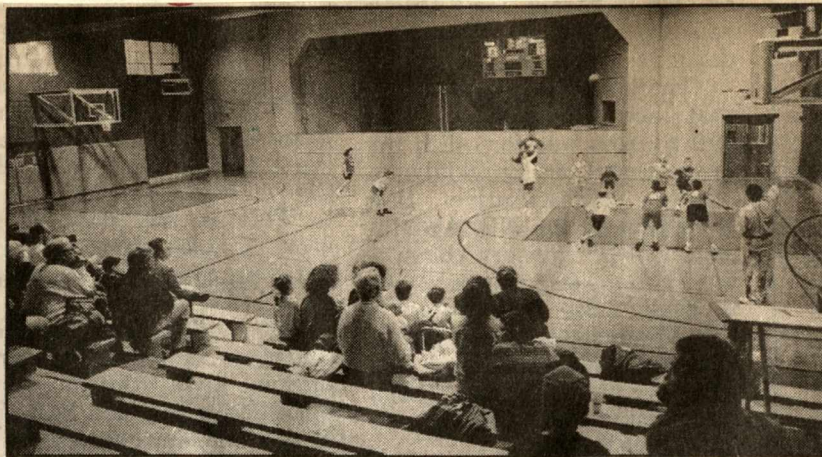
All closed as high schools in the early 1960s, but lived on for another decade as grade schools and junior highs until further consolidation shut them down for good in 1971. Valley and Glenn were both revived as community centers. Their gyms continue to unite townspeople for basketball games. But nowadays, the players range from pre-schoolers, to church leaguers, to even some of the graying graduates who once wore the school colors.

Just last week, the congregation of the New Life Tabernacle Church crossed the street to fill the Glenn Civic Center gym and watch a dozen or so of their members tangle on the hardwood. With virtually every spot filled on the neat rows of 2-by-8 bleacher planks, the place rocked with the old-time fervor of Hoosier Hysteria.

"I didn't realize it could be so loud in there," says Glenn program director John Benton.

"It was packed," adds Larry Wilson, the center's executive director.

Neither Wilson nor Benton is a Glenn grad. But, as they often do, the two served as referees for



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter, Jim Avells

**Still busy places:** The gyms of the Glenn Civic Center (above) and West Vigo Community Center (right) draw hundreds of players and fans each week.

that night's game; and even after years on the job there, they learned something about the place.

"Oh, man, it was loud," Benton reiterates. "The fans were hootin' and hollerin'. You almost couldn't even hear our whistles."

☆ ☆ ☆

Fans and players are in two separate worlds in the Valley High gym — now the West Vigo Community Center. A balcony allows the crowd an unique, overhead view of the action, while the players have the court to themselves.

And that court and those bleachers are original in the 1940s-era facility.

Perhaps, they've never looked better. In 1992, the floor was sanded to its original layer and resurfaced. The shine, as well as the 3-point lines, take years off its appearance.

"Everybody commented on it," says acting center director Lori Pound. "They thought it was just beautiful."

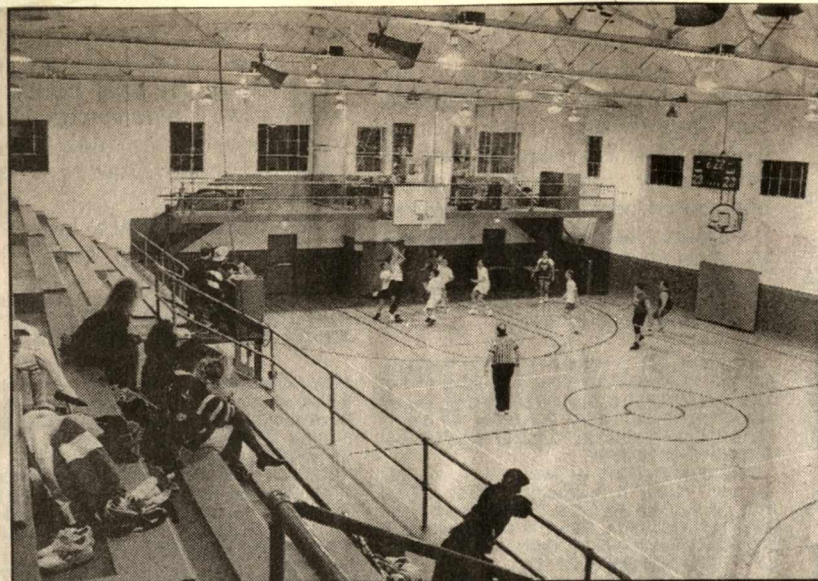
The word "everybody" is appropriate. The gym may be busier now than during its school days.

League basketball and volleyball are scheduled five days a week, and pickup teams rent court time on the other two. Throw in daily senior citizen activities, a soup kitchen, an energy assistance program and child immunizations, and it's easy to believe Pound when she says, "We see quite a few people for various reasons." Between 300 and 400 people from West Terre Haute and beyond visit the center each week, she estimates.

And the gym remains at its heart.

"A lot of the [Valley gradu-





ates'] kids and grandkids play," Pound says. "The stands are filled on Saturdays to watch them play in the same place where they played. I think it's something special they share."

☆ ☆ ☆

The gym in Glenn Civic Center serves Vigo County's eastside in many of the same ways, and both receive United Way funding. Night after night, nearly 70 basketball teams from 4-year-olds to men's industrial league teams. Its been that way for more than a decade.

All of those years of games almost never came. Back in the late 1970s, the county Park Department, which maintained the school after its close, considered dismantling it.

"The wrecking ball was on the lot," John Benton says. "Basically, the citizens went off and

said, 'Why are you tearing it down?' A community uproar and a lack of money stopped the demolition, he adds.

Not everyone was sold on the idea of the school becoming a community center, Benton says, fearing the gym would attract rowdy patrons. Time and the steady growth of its programs have won over many skeptics.

"I think they've seen the need for it," Larry Wilson says. "They've seen their families and kids play here and benefit from it."

Among the generations served are former Glenn basketball standout Harry Cruse and his son Jimmy, now the senior leader of Terre Haute North High School's team. The younger Cruse, as with hundreds of other youngsters, spent countless hours on the Glenn court.

If that wrecking ball had

swung ...

"They would have a hard time incorporating all these kids into other programs," Benton says. "There would definitely be a void."

☆ ☆ ☆

Basketball is much less formal atop Concannon Hill in Jim Page's home. For \$2 per person, if you call ahead, Page opens the gym for friendly games. "It's mostly just a good-natured, among-friends kind of thing," he says.

When the Pages (Jim's brother Steve also has an apartment there) bought the school in the early 1970s, the court looked unusable, covered by a thick layer of rocks and dirt. Page's five-year plan to restore the place has stretched into an unending task. But already, plenty of its old charm has re-emerged. The game clock, donated by the Class of 1950, still works.

"It seems hard to believe now a place this small could have a high school basketball game, but it did," Page says.

More than 300 Concannon grads visited the place during a recent reunion. "A lot of people were surprised it's still going," Page says.

Others who frequent the gym, including Page's son and daughter, are less nostalgic, and just appreciate its availability. Despite all the work, Page plans to keep it that way.

"It'd be a shame to do anything else with it," he says. "That's what it was designed for."



# Cemetery makes register of historic places

*JAN 24 1991*  
*Historic Landmarks (WV) Highland Lawn*  
A Terre Haute cemetery has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places enabling the city to apply for federal grants for restoration or preservation work.

Highland Lawn Cemetery at 4520 Wabash Ave. was placed on the register Nov. 29, said Rita Kendall, superintendent of city cemeteries. City officials learned of the placement Jan. 16.

In Indiana, the register program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

The 137-acre cemetery was purchased by Terre Haute in 1884 for \$15,000 from Ray Jenkes and Grace Jenkes, parents of Virginia Jenkes, the first woman elected to Congress, Kendall said.

The cemetery's chapel was dedicated in 1889 and a bell tower in 1894, Kendall said. An office was added about 1900. Restoration work has been done on the chapel at the cemetery, Kendall said. "The chapel originally cost \$6,000 and was restored for about \$65,000." The restored chapel was rededicated

in 1988.

With the placement on the register, Kendall said she has applied for a matching grant of \$58,000 to restore the cemetery's bell tower and for a \$10,000 matching grant for work on the exterior of the chapel. All the grants are 50-50 matching grants.

"We would have to come up with \$58,000 if we get the one grant and \$10,000 for the other."

Donations are being accepted to aid in restoration of the cemetery, Kendall added.

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Community Affairs File

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# July 1, 1928

## THIRD HOTEL AT 'CROSSROADS'

**Guests Will Be Received Tomorrow, Formal Opening to Be on Friday and Saturday.**

The third hotel within a century will be opened for business at the "Crossroads of the World" tomorrow morning when the New Terre Haute House is opened for business. The new structure replaces one that stood for many years, and that structure replaced the old Prairie House at the same location.

The first was just a pioneer hotel, the second was modern when built in the latter part of the Nineteenth century, while the structure that will be opened tomorrow is the most modern of Twentieth century hostels. Not only is the place modern, but it is the largest hotel ever built in Terre Haute and the most beautiful.

The new hotel is a 10-story structure of concrete and steel frame, absolutely fireproof, and finished with yellow brick veneer. It was started about a year ago in May. For the past month sub-contractors have been busy decorating various rooms and installing fixtures.

The hotel has 250 rooms, and all are "outside" rooms. Each is beautifully furnished. The single rooms have a large bed, a dressing table, a desk and two chairs. Fine carpets are laid in every room and the walls are artistically papered with flowery wall paper. Every room in the house has a bath, while many have both bath and shower. Telephones, running hot water and ice water, and circulating air also are included in the equipment for the comfort of the guest.

### Dining Rooms on Mezzanine.

From the third to the tenth floors, inclusive, there are nothing but the rooms and suites. All are handsomely furnished and the corridors are also elaborate with soft carpets, settees and lamps.

On the mezzanine floor are the private dining rooms, etc. The large banquet hall and ballroom is on the west side of the mezzanine and its windows open into Seventh street. There are about six dining rooms for meetings on the mezzanine floor and offices of the management also are located there. All around the balcony of the mezzanine floor elaborate lobby furniture is placed, including heavy overstuffed lounges and easy chairs.

There are two entrances to the hotel lobby, one from Seventh street and one from Wabash avenue. As one enters the lobby he at once is overawed by the beauty of the mezzanine arrangement. A balcony encircles the lobby proper and great chandeliers hang from the artistically decorated ceiling. The walls on the lower floor are of paneled

oak. Other beautiful lobby furniture is placed on the first floor.

The clerk's desk is at the north end of the lobby. This is built in and has the very latest modern conveniences of a clerk's counter.

Just to the left of the Wabash avenue entrance are two elevators that run from the basement to the tenth floor. These are the latest type elevators and are very fast. There is a safety device on every elevator door that closes it whenever the operator's hand is removed. A mail chute at the side of the elevators runs from the tenth floor to the first.

The cigar stand that is being operated by William Deschler of Indianapolis is on the right of the Wabash avenue entrance. There are

doors in most of the store rooms facing Wabash avenue opening into the hotel lobby.

### Occupants of Shops.

Charles Blanford's men's furnishing store was the first to occupy a store room, while Hornung's jewelry store occupies another. The corner room will probably be rented for a drug store. The Terre Haute Transfer Company will occupy the room next to the Terre Haute House coffee shop in North Seventh street. This company will supply taxicabs and transfer baggage, using the room as their hotel headquarters.

The Stinus shoe shining parlor moved into the basement yesterday and next week Nicholas' Terre

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The Stinus shoe shining parlor moved into the basement yesterday and next week Nicholas' Terre

Haute House barber shop will move in. McGregor's billiard parlor at 709½ Wabash avenue will occupy a large room in the basement.

Opposite the Seventh street entrance is the main dining room. This is a beautifully decorated place and will have ample room for all occasions.

The hotel will receive guests tomorrow morning and the pay roll of the hotel's employees started yesterday. E. L. Wenzel, manager, announced that the hotel employs an even hundred people.

The formal opening of the hotel will be held Friday and Saturday, July 6 and 7. The annual meeting of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce will be held on the first night and will be in charge of the local chamber, while the hotel management will have charge on the second evening.

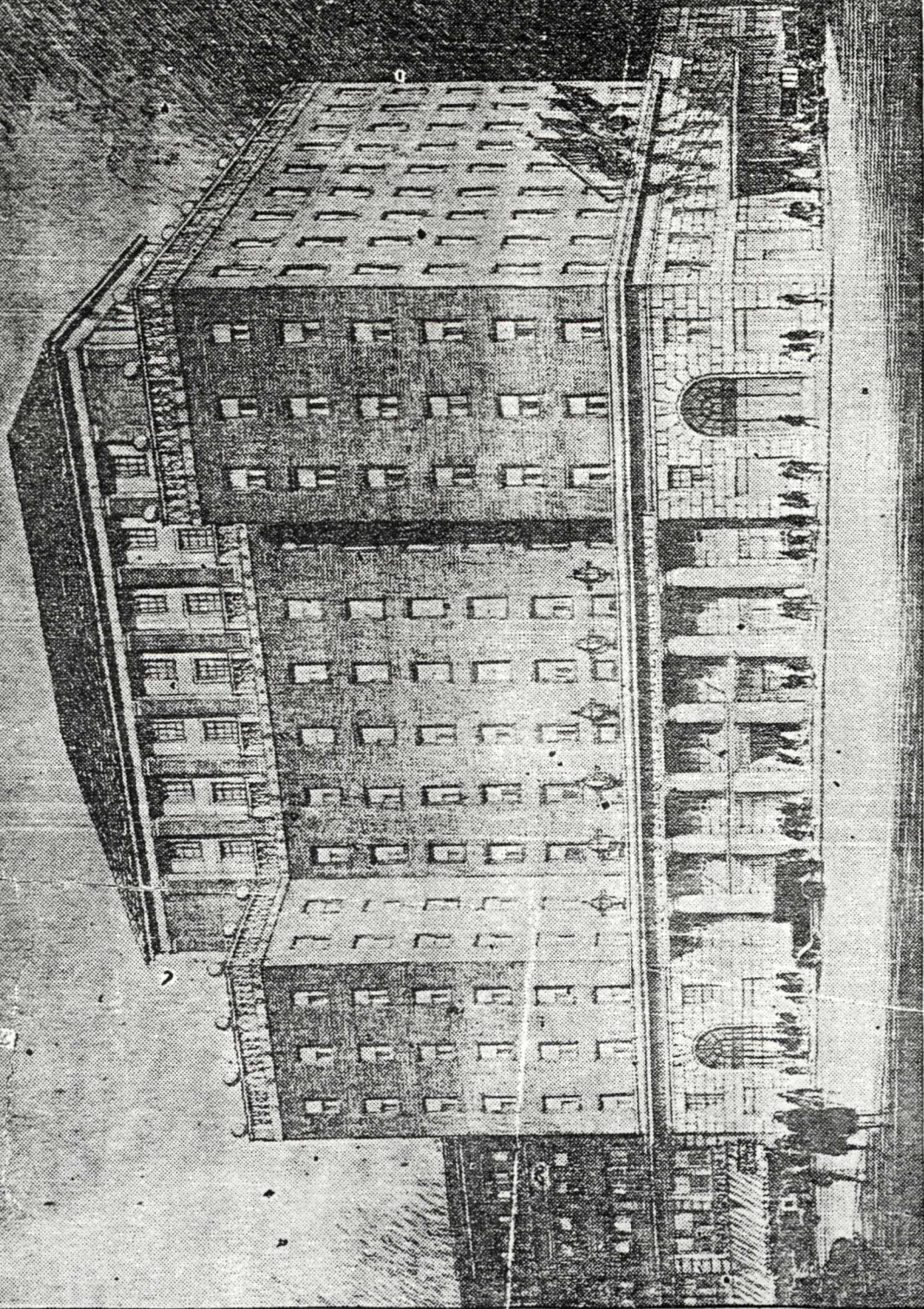
Senator James Watson will be the speaker on the first night at an elaborate banquet and Paul N. Bogart, who spoke at the opening of the Hotel Deming some years ago, will give the opening address. No special program is arranged for the second night, but another big banquet will be held.

Dancing will follow the banquets. Bud Cromwell with his newly organized symphonic orchestra will furnish the music and the dance will last until the wee hours of the morning.



T.H. Star

July 1, 1928



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## Sports

*Historic Landmarks (IU)*

Indiana Statesman • Friday, Oct. 21, 1994 • Page 16

# Guest columnist reveals Memorial Stadium's past

By B. Michael McCormick  
Guest columnist

As a member of the Terre Haute community and an ISU graduate, I enjoy keeping abreast of college attitudes and events by reading the Statesman.

Occasionally, the newspaper contains a comment which sparks my responsive instincts. For instance, in issue of Sept. 16, a story stated: "Curious as to why Memorial was built so far away? Who knows? That's just the way it is."

To thousands of Terre Haute residents who "do know," the statement is a bit shocking. Upon reflection, however, I suspect that there are many students who don't know and, perhaps, don't care. For the few who might like to have the answer to the story's



question, I offer this brief lesson in local history.

Prior to the Civil War, the Vigo Country Fairgrounds were located in the northern part of the city. In 1861, the buildings at the fair-

grounds were converted to barracks for Union soldiers who formed several prominent Indiana regiments. The converted grounds became known as Camp Vigo.

After the Civil War, Terre Haute needed new fairgrounds. The site chosen was located on the northeast corner of Wabash and Brown avenues. It was "out in the country," to be sure, but substantial space was necessary. The new fairgrounds were elaborate for its day and featured in a centerfold in Harper's Weekly, the popular New York Newspaper. The Indiana State Fair was held there in 1867. The grounds included an outstanding half-mile horse track.

Soon, horse racing became a very popular spectator sport here. By 1886-87, the half-mile horse racing track had been turned into a mile-long track which encompassed much more land than both the present stadium and the golf course. It had been redesigned by surveyor George Grimes and track superintendent Uriah Jeffers.

During the two decades the track was on horse racing's Grand Circuit, over 20 world records were set there. By special design, it was the fastest track in the country. Terre Haute's "Four-Cornered Track" was, literally, world fa-

See Columnist, page 17

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# Columnist

Continued from page 16

mous.

Meanwhile, Terre Haute also had professional baseball. The first enclosed stadium for baseball was built at 19th and Wabash in 1883. The second was built at 26th and Wabash in 1895. That facility was still serving the community, its colleges and the pro baseball team in 1924. Football also was played there. It was called "Athletic Park."

With the introduction of automobiles and motorcycles, interest in horse racing diminished. By World War I, the "Four-Cornered Track" was being used for track meets an auto and motorcycle races than for horse racing. The city decided to build an elaborate sports complex at the site, primarily for baseball but also for football.

When Memorial Stadium was dedicated in May, 1925, it was hailed as the "finest minor league baseball stadium in the country" and second only to New York's

Yankee Stadium in playing area. Baseball Commissioner Keneshaw Mountain Landis was here for the inaugural ceremonies. The stadium quickly became the primary arena for college and high school football, too. Indiana State students reached the stadium by using railroad cars, which departed with much pomp and circumstance on Saturday mornings--at a point a few blocks north of campus--and dropped them off at a point less than a block north of the stadium.

Professional baseball continued to flourish in Terre Haute--though interrupted by World War II--until 1956. Television--a "new kid on the block"--kept many fans home and a 73-year tradition floundered. The last pro baseball game involving a Terre Haute team was July 4, 1956. Though the stadium and its 11,500 seats continued to be used for amateur and semi-pro baseball, boxing, wrestling, fireworks, pageants, circuses, band programs and high school and ISU football, inconsistent use did not permit it to be properly maintained.

ISU had not maintained its own football facility since Parsons field was abandoned early in the century. As ISU expanded its athletic program, Memorial Stadium was a logical site for a football stadium. The university leased the stadium from the city for 99 years and made it the first outdoor athletic facility in the nation to install Astro-turf and remodeled the baseball stadium into a football stadium. Only the memorial arch remains.

When, in 1865, the City of Terre Haute successfully battled competing communities before the state legislature to obtain ISU, it was an advantage to locate the college in the middle of the town, near businesses and necessary facilities. One building turned into two and so on as the college expanded. There hardly was any room for athletic facilities near campus since the college was in the midst of a residential area, including many residential mansions. Over the years, most residences and nearby businesses have been eliminated as the campus has dramatically expanded.

Now, most athletic facilities are on or near campus.

As you take the shuttlebus to Memorial Stadium this season, ponder that you are taking a step back into history and returning to the site where, a little over a century ago (1892), the great Nancy Hanks stunned the racing world by running the mile in 2:04.

It is the place where the immortal racehorse Dan Patch often tried to set a world record and failed . . . where Babe Ruth, Roger Maris and Hank Aaron hit home runs . . . where Cannonball Baker carved his reputation . . . where Max Schmeling demonstrated the punch which captured the world heavyweight title . . . where Ray Ewry, ten-time Olympic gold medalist, won several college athletic meets in the standing high jump and standing long jump . . . where baseball immortals Roger Hornsby, Max Carey and George Sisler gave baseball lessons . . . where pitchers Dizzy Trout, Tommy John, Harry Taylor, Emil Bildilli and Bill Butland were discovered . . . where young Pat Riley--now the New York Knicks'

coach--frolicked while his father managed the Terre Haute pro team . . . where Don Larsen strode to the mound years before pitching the only perfect game in a World Series . . . and hundreds of others honed or performed the skills that would make them household names.

In a modest way, the stadium is a monument to those individuals, their feats and a multitude of significant events and accomplishments. Officially it is a shrine to those who lost their lives during the world wars. World War I was on the minds of those who built it.

Memorial Stadium provided Terre Haute with the finest athletic facility in the country for a community under 500,000. At the time it was built, and for forty years after, its use by ISU was incidental to existence, not the reason for it. It was altered and is maintain to preserve an historic heritage and to provide ISU with an outstanding football arena. Let's hope that both student and community support will continue to justify its existence.

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# Crossroads of America really exists now

✓ Historic Landmarks (44)

By John Halladay **TS JUL 05 1988**  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

It's official.

The intersection of Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue is the Crossroads of America.

Civic leaders and representatives of the Vigo County Historical Society, Merchants National Bank and International Business Machines Corp. dedicated the intersection Monday.

Two bronze plaques on the bank building and an official Indiana Historical Marker on IBM property across the intersection mark

the crossroads.

Those taking part in the ceremonies included Rep. John T. Myers, R-Ind.; Mayor P. Pete Chalos; Charles Combs, president of Merchants; David Rusk, managing officer of IBM's Terre Haute offices; and members of the Historical Society.

Joy Sacopulos of the Historical Society said the society felt recognition of the intersection was long overdue. The society decided to make recognition of the intersection the society's contribution to Celebrate Terre Haute and Hoosier Celebration '88, she said.

The Terre Haute Concert Band played tunes for the ceremony, including "Where the Highways Cross," a song written in the

late 1930s by Harold Bright, the first director of the Indiana State University Band.

That was the first time the song was performed at the crossroads, Sacopulos said.

It may be only now that the intersection has been officially designated by plaques and a marker, but the idea has been around for at least 60 years or so.

The Vigo County Public Library says the intersection has been known variously as "Crossroads of Indiana," "Crossroads of America," "Crossroads of the Nation," and "Crossroads of the World."

The lobby of the post office just up the block from the intersection sports a map

above "The Crossroads Station" philatelic store showing U.S. 40 and U.S. 41 crossing.

The 1980 annual report of the Vigo County Area Planning shows a former version of the Terre Haute flag on the cover — four gold fleur-de-lis on a blue field — and says, "The fleur-de-lis are arranged to point to the four cardinal directions of the compass, to represent Terre Haute as the Crossroads of the Nation."

An article called "The Passing of the Terre Haute House" dated April 2, 1927, said erection of the hotel was begun about 90 years before that as "a rambling brick structure which was destined to stand at the 'Cross Roads of the World.'"

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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# 'Crossroads' ceremony Monday

## Markers to affirm what natives always knew

*Historical Landmarks (WV) - Crossroads of America*  
By Ron Koch <sup>S</sup> JUL 03 1966  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Monday morning's ceremony to commemorate Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue as the Crossroads of America is long overdue — about 60 years overdue, says Joy Sacopulos of the Vigo County Historical Society.

At about 9:15 a.m., an official Indiana State historical marker will be unveiled at the downtown intersection, which was once the intersection of U.S. 40 and 41 — nicknamed the Crossroads of America.

The marker is the result of a year-long effort. Members of the historical group worked to have the crossroads formally designated as the intersection of the first roads to span the nation north to south and east to west.

Terre Haute merchants began cashing in on the nickname as a marketing gimmick shortly after 1926, when the local streets were officially named as national routes, Sacopulos said.

"The merchants made a big deal out of it," said Sacopulos, who is also a committee member of Celebrate Terre Haute. "In researching this, I have seen post

cards about 50 years old from the Terre Haute House, noting its location at the 'Crossroads of America.'"

Society member Susie Dewey, who along with Sacopulos conducted the research for Monday's event, said, "There's not a single native of this town who doesn't know the intersection as the Crossroads of America," but that it is unknown who originally coined the nickname.

The marker will be placed at the northwest corner of the intersection, about three feet northwest of the intersecting public sidewalks. Two plaques also will be posted

across the street on the Merchants National Bank Building.

One plaque, which will face Wabash Avenue, notes that before the street was designated as part of U.S. 40, it was known as the Old National Road — after George Washington proposed to open a path for development of the Northwest Territory in 1806.

"It was started as a dirt path in Cumberland, Md., and was surveyed through Terre Haute in 1834," Sacopulos said. "It became paved in 1926 and was completed from the Atlantic to the Pacific by 1935."

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File



The other plaque, which will face Seventh Street, notes that U.S. 41 reached from northernmost Michigan to Miami, Fla., and passed through Terre Haute's business district as Seventh Street.

Both markers note that the intersecting roads were the nation's principal east-west, north-south highways, forming a cultural link between major cities in America.

"Terre Haute was a target of great envy because every city wanted a big highway, let alone two of them," Sacopolus said, comparing what a highway meant for people in 1935 to what new

business means for people today.

"Terre Haute was jam-packed with business within a block of that intersection," the history buff said, adding that Terre Haute was once larger than Indianapolis. "There was the Terre Haute House, the bank building, lawyers' offices, doctors' offices, three theaters and four drug stores within 50 feet."

She said that because of all that activity, the intersection became too congested, so the highway was rerouted to Third Street in about 1940.

It was about a year before then that a piece of music, titled "Where

The Highways Cross," was written by Harold Bright, Indiana State University's first band director.

Dewey and Sacopolus, both of whom are Terre Haute natives, say they believe the instrumental piece was written for a planned Crossroads celebration that apparently fell through.

The musical piece was brought to the attention of the researchers by David McConkey, director of the Terre Haute Concert Band, and it will played during Monday's ceremony — which will be attended by Mayor P. Pete Chalos and U.S. Rep. John Myers, R-Covington.



# Crossroads of America

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

*Historic Landmark (WV) - Crossroads of America*  
At least one Illinois resident questions the authenticity of naming the intersection of Wabash Avenue and Seventh Street in Terre Haute as the "Crossroads of America."

**Jeanne Wallace** of Marshall believes the nation's crossroads are where U.S. 40 and Illinois 1 cross. She said Marshall was known as being "Where the Highways Cross and the Porch Lights Burn All Night."

But **Susie Dewey** of the Vigo County Historical Society says **Harold Bright's** song about Where the Highways Cross refers to Terre Haute, not Marshall.

"There's a logo on the song showing crossing highways and the name Terre Haute," she explained. "Besides, Route 1 in Illinois is a state highway and not a U.S. highway." Also, on top of the song is the notation: "Respectfully dedicated to the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Terre Haute, Indiana."

But Illinois got a mention since Bright put a note on the song saying the second four measures introducing "Illinois Loyalty" indicate the nearness of Illinois to the intersection of U.S. 40 and 41.

JUL 14 1988

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# Once it really was the crossroads

*Historic Landmarks (wv) - Crossroads of America*

Some 15 years ago, Rudy Shonfield and I were standing at the "Crossroads of America" discussing downtown's decline, the Terre Haute House and the intersection in general.

Rudy commented that only the traffic had changed, that it was now in the sky, as jets left 11 contrails across the city, east to west and north to south. Only recently one morning at Rea Park, I counted 14 visible contrails, invisible jets streaking in four directions. *(w-bash)*

But years ago, Seventh and Main was the city's main intersection, the main pedestrian intersection for shoppers, office workers, students, professional people and vehicle traffic. A truck route was finally established through the city, to reduce the number of freight-hauling vehicles: Poplar Street east to west, and Third Street north to south.

What a scene at Seventh and Main six days a week — people, cars, street cars, with the street traffic controlled by Henry Rickleman in the center of the intersection with a stop-go signal he turned by hand. Rickleman was tall and slender. He'd take a break from about 10 to 11 a.m., and in the afternoon from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Only a few knew where he went, but it wasn't far from the Crossroads — his Crossroads. His counterpart, Pat Gleason, had the same job at Sixth and Main.

All street cars went through this

## Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

**By Richard C. Tuttle**  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

intersection: South Seventh and Sullivan interurban; North 13th and Clinton interurban; East Locust; North 19th; South 13th; South 17th; North Eighth, North Fourth; East Wabash and Indianapolis interurban; West Terre Haute; and Paris interurban. Although there were far fewer autos, it seemed most of them were on either street during the rush hours. Interstate vehicular traffic used both Main and Seventh streets, there was no re-routing.

The corner itself was only reasonably attractive. The Terre Haute House was a fairly new, modern, attractive structure. The Merchants Bank & Trust Co. (formerly the Terre Haute Trust Co.) was a typical office building, fairly new and very businesslike in appearance.

A United Tobacco Co. store occupied the southwest corner — now

the Fannie May Candy Shop. Hook's Drug Store was on the northwest corner, where a drug store had been for decades. It was originally the Oak Hall Drug Store, owned by Con Herbeys, and the training ground for many new pharmacists. Bill Douglas managed the cigar store for some time.

The Terre Haute House, on the site of the Prairie House, was a busy place, with three dining rooms open for lunch and dinner; the popular Marine Room Lounge; and the large Mayflower Room for Rotary, Kiwanis and special events.

Fifty to 60 years ago, on North Seventh were the Western Union, Postal Telegraph, a shoe-shine parlor with a twin parlor on South Seventh, The May Shop (women's apparel), the post office and the Grand Opera House — later just the Grand Theater. This theater was the first to install sound equipment for the new fad: sound movies. Block-long lines formed for the opening.

The present post office stands on the site of the old post office, and was designed by Warren Miller, local architect. There were doctor and other offices on the second and third floor of the Opera House on the Seventh Street side.

The Terre Haute House and the Merchants Bank remain at the intersection — one operating and the other closed. Times change everything, including people.

TS JUL 18 1988

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Ind. Roads

3

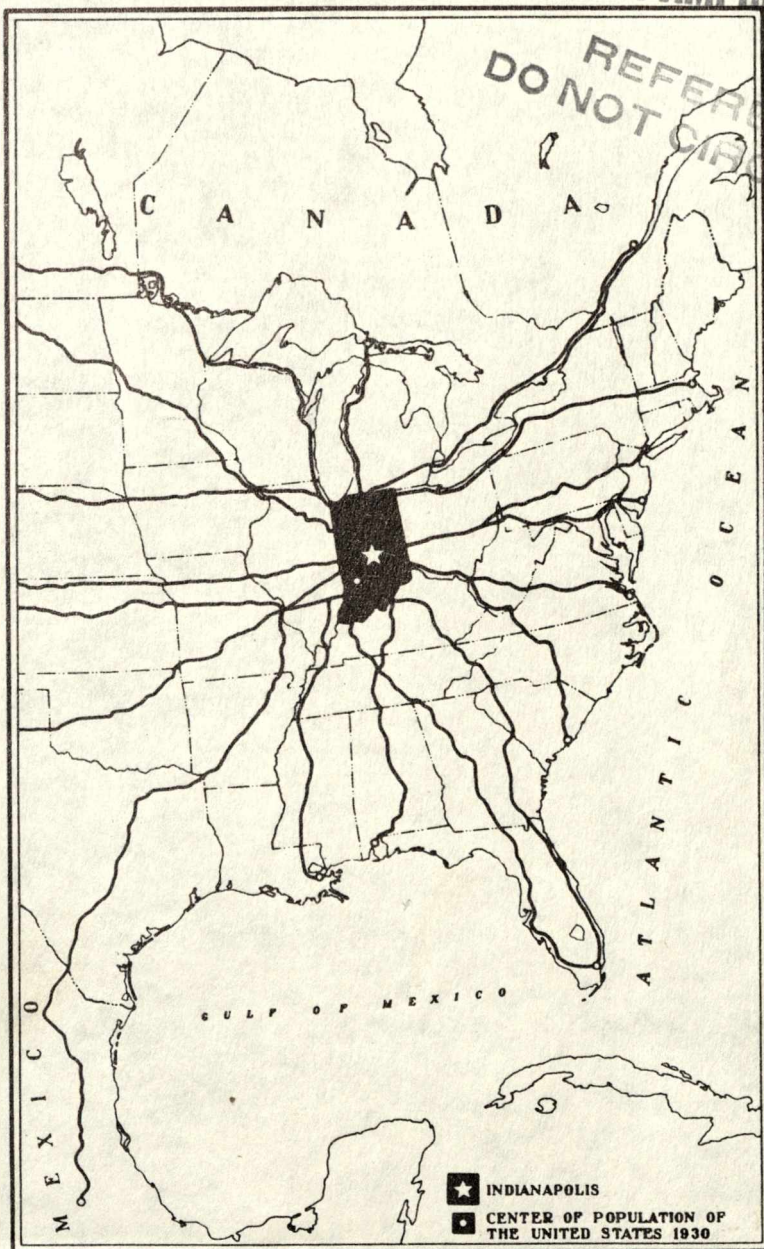
INDIANA STATE MOTTO

INDIANA ROOM

**"THE CROSSROADS OF AMERICA"**

PAMPHLET FILE

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By act approved March 2, 1937, the General Assembly adopted "The Crossroads of America" as the official state motto or slogan.

Issued by the Indiana Historical Bureau,  
408 State Library and Historical Building, Indianapolis



*National Road - Community Affairs File*

The system of municipal government is what is known as the Federal system, a mayor, city clerk, city judge, a councilman from each of the seven wards and three councilmen at large being elected by popular vote. All officers are elected for four years, and the mayor is empowered to name the appointive officers, including a board of public works and safety, composed of the city controller, city attorney and city engineer. The city is conducted on the budget system, the annual budget being subject to final review and approval or disapproval by the state board of tax commissioners, after it has been approved by a county board of tax review named by the Judge of the Circuit Court. After the adoption of the annual budget, additional appropriations are permitted, but they must meet the approval of the state board of tax commissioners. The present elective officers of Terre Haute are: Mayor, Joseph P. Duffy; city clerk, Ralph Tucker; city judge, Herbert H. Criss; councilmen-at-large, Robert E. Welch, John J. Carney, and William Kelly; First ward, Herman Neal; Second ward, Frank Doyle; Third ward, Ernest Nicoson; Fourth ward, Charles P. Koll; Fifth ward, Marvin Taylor; Sixth ward, Frank Smith.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND RAW MATERIALS

Situated in the heart of the Indiana bituminous coal belt, surrounded by almost inexhaustible deposits of clay, fire clay, shale, for the manufacture of brick and clay products, with sand and gravel and glass sand for use in the manufacture of bottles, and a water supply noted for its purity, with a transportation system unequalled, Terre Haute is ideally located for the manufacture and shipment of the products of its highly diversified industries. The city is located on the main lines of two east and west railroads, the New York Central and the Pennsylvania systems, admittedly two of the greatest transportation systems of the land, connecting the eastern markets through the important St. Louis gateway with the great Southwest. Then, North and South, it has the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railway, connecting Chicago with the South and Southeast, via Nashville, Atlanta and Birmingham, while the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railway connects it with the great Northwest, the coal this system carries to the northwest alone enabling numerous mines to operate along its lines in Southern Indiana. In addition to rail transportation, truck lines operating with Terre Haute as a base, haul freight in every direction, with safety and dispatch. This business is made possible by innumerable concrete highways, based on United States Roads Nos. 40 and 41, which cross in the down town business district of the city, the crossing point being known as the "Cross Roads of the World." No. 40 was the original National Road, which was begun in the last century as a government project, connecting the national capital with St. Louis, the only method of those days for transportation between the east and the west. No. 41 is known as the "Dixie Highway," connecting the northernmost points in the United States with its southernmost.

Terre Haute is distant from St. Louis 188 miles; from Chicago, 178 miles; from Cincinnati, 183 miles; and from Louisville 178 miles. It is within a few miles of the center of population of the United States, as shown by the 1940 census; within a radius of fifty miles, 500,000 persons live, and within a radius of five hundred miles Terre Haute is in touch with more than half of the population of the United States.

#### BANKS AND BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Financially, Terre Haute is represented by two national banks, each with a branch, a savings bank and two state banks, and by eight building and loan associations. A survey for 1941 made by the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, shows that the total bank resources of the city as of Dec. 31, 1941, were \$52,989,143.38, a decided gain over 1940, when these resources were \$48,050,483.52. Bank clearances for 1941 were \$385,462,651.49, as compared to \$305,139,071.33 for 1940. Total bank deposits as of Dec. 31, 1941, were \$36,718,502.75. The total building and loan resources as of Dec. 31, 1941, were \$13,873,308.62, an increase of over \$300,000 over 1940. Outside of the capital Terre Haute is said to lead in the building and loan business of the state. Due to the help of the associations in the purchase of homes, it is said that over sixty-five per cent of the householders of the city own their own homes. All building and loan associations are protected by Federal insurance.

Other interesting figures given by the survey referred to are that there were 26,190 motor vehicle registrations in 1941, the postal receipts were \$531,035.70, and building permits were issued for a total of \$434,866.00. The total car loadings for 1941 were 116,027 as compared to 88,254 for 1940, a sure indication of bettered business conditions. There were 28,104 electric

Community Affairs File

DO NOT CIRCULATE

*Indiana Today*



## Former brewery now bottles memories rather than beer

By Patty Poremba  
Entertainment editor

It's hard to believe that a town that currently outlaws the sale of liquor on Sundays was once home to 12 breweries. "Drink beer. . . it's good for you," was the advice stamped on a circa mid-1940s crate of Champagne Velvet beer, manufactured by what was Terre Haute's leading brewery, the Terre Haute Brewing Co.

The history behind Terre Haute Brewing Co. can be literally unearthed by a visit to E. Bleemel Flour & Feed at 904-906 Poplar St. Mike Rowe bought the property in

ing a slice of Terre Haute's past that has compelled Rowe to concentrate his efforts on the brewery that once occupied a good portion of Poplar St. Numerous names and incarnations were associated with the brewery (see geneology), whose history spans over 150 years.

While no solid documents remain, Rowe speculates that the original Terre Haute Brewery was built around 1830. A number of prominent founding fathers played major roles in the development of the business, including Demas Deming, Chauncey Rose and Crawford Fairbanks (believe it or not, no Hulman's). Deming and Chauncey

the early 1890s, production of Champagne Velvet, the trade name adopted for the corporation's brew, was up to 325,000. By 1892, the brewery was the seventh largest in the country, though its fame was cut short by Prohibition and the business closed its doors in 1918 (however, Rowe discovered some letterhead in the building's rafters, dated 1923, with a drawing of a bottle of Champagne Velvet tout-ing it as a supposed "non-intoxicating beverage").

By 1931, the abandoned brewery was purchased by the Wabash Realty and Loan Co. and brewing operations were resumed on St. Patrick's Day of 1934. The corporation celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1949 with the brewery chugging out 1,500,000 barrels a year.

Then, at the height of its productivity, the brewery surprisingly shut down, closing its doors for good on Dec. 3, 1958. Rowe speculates that the owners responsible for the property at that time were just tired of the ownership and upkeep. Fortunately, Rowe eventually stepped in and saved this Terre Haute time machine from the wrecking ball.

The word "bizarre" keeps popping up when Rowe describes the excavation project of the brewery. Every layer of brick and limestone that he digs up only reveals more brick and limestone. At this point, even Rowe can't predict when the brewery will be uncovered in its entirety.

"Everything is being discovered piece by piece," said Rowe, likening the process to the completion of a jigsaw puzzle. The exterior of the building was the first part to receive a facelift and 15 coats of paint were power-washed off to finally reveal the original E. Bleemel Flour & Feed sign.

But it was the soul of the building that truly intrigued Rowe. As the digging began, he uncovered not only artifacts pertaining to the brewery, but such wonders as entrances to underground tunnels that lead to the Terre Haute Brewery bottling plant and icehouse.

"The tunnels were collapsed in 1942 and from what an old-timer has told me, there's 22,000 empty beer bottles and brewery equipment entombed in the middle of the tunnels," Rowe explained.

The Wabash and Erie Canal ran directly down the east side of Ninth



E. Bleemel Building 904-06 Poplar, circa 1832.

St. with the dock system coming up to the east side of Bleemel's. While the canal was filled in shortly after the Civil War (1865), Rowe found several coolers lining the former canal dock, chock full of old coins, inkwells, medicine bottles and a couple pairs of shoes.

"Before refrigeration, beer was stored at least 60 feet underground," Rowe commented. "To prepare the beer for transportation, it would be brought up into a cooler and packed in sawdust and ice to wait the arrival of the canal boats."

Equally fascinating are brewery business documents dating back to the 1940s. The union contract stipulated that workers could drink on the job. Not only that, but each employee was given 22 drink tickets a week which they could cash in for 22 bottles of Champagne Velvet beer.

Even the Champagne Velvet trademark is full of lore as detailed in an account in the brewery's museum: 1) the "velvet" came from a term used for fine spirits in the distillery. . . the best of the spirits were called "velvet;" 2) the "cham-pagne" was chosen because the brewery made a light beer, possessing a champagne color and sparkle; and 3) it was adopted from a famed Dublin drink called "velvet" consisting of one part stout and one of champagne.

Now the property on Ninth and Poplar only quenches the imagination of customers, not their thirst. It's impossible to give full justice to the brewery's past and present glories in print, so a visit is a must. Museum and store hours are Mon. - Sat., 10:30 - 5:30 p.m.; Sun., noon - 4 p.m.; and closed Wednesdays.

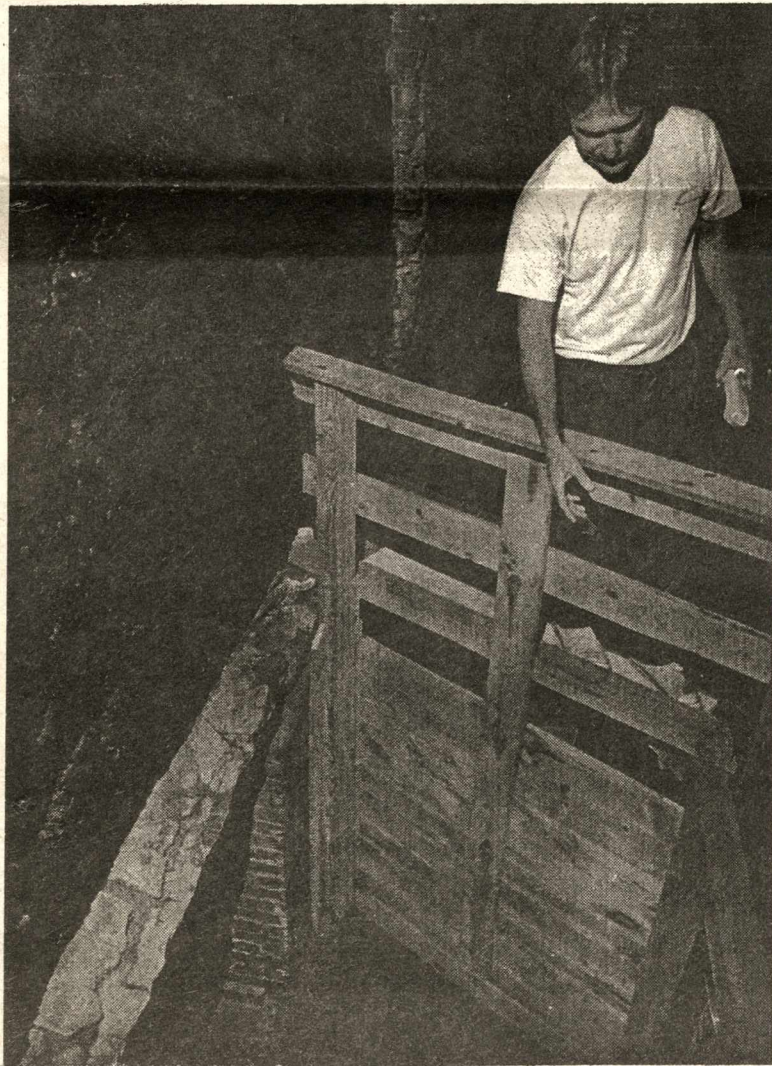


Photo by Chris Howell

Mike Rowe, owner of E. Bleemel Flour & Feed, points out the current excavation process.

1990 saving it from imminent demolition after it had been condemned by the city. Over the years, Rowe has painstakingly renovated the building to its former grandeur, and the space currently houses an antique store on the first floor, private apartments in a separate wing and a brewery exhibit and Civil War museum upstairs.

But it's been the draw of salvag-

Warren were trustees in the sale of the brewery nearly 50 years before Deming's son and Crawford Fairbanks & Associates purchased Anton Mayer's brewery in 1889. They incorporated and renamed the business the Terre Haute Brewery Co. and the firm began to enjoy its most rapid growth period.

While the annual production of beer in 1868 was 5,000 barrels, by



Photo by Chris Howell

### Terre Haute Brewery Co. Geneology

- Ninth and Poplar (north side of Poplar)**  
 before 1837 - Terre Haute Brewery  
 1848-60 - Mogger Brewery  
 1862-74 - Bleemel Brewery (Flour & Feed, 1874)
- Ninth and Poplar (south side of Poplar)**  
 1860-68 - Mogger Brewery  
 1868-89 - Mayer Brewery  
 1889-1958 - Terre Haute Brewery Co.



# Normal Hall only shadow of former beauty

Indiana Statesman Fall 1995  
By Lori Henson  
Statesman reporter

A striking reproduction of Raphael's drawing "Philosophy" and stained-glass panels emblazoned with wreathed medallions and lighted torches once towered over an environment of knowledge and discovery on ISU's campus.

The sunlight streamed through the glass panels featuring open books and scales of justice representing the ideals of the university.

And below it all were the inscribed words, "Education shall be forever encouraged."

These images once surrounded students seeking repose and study time beneath the dome in the rotunda of Normal Hall.

The stained-glass dome, supported by marblized columns, has since been replaced by plain white plaster, dust and the scars of practical modernization in the rotunda of Normal Hall.

The dome, which was once credited with creating an environment which was called "an inspiration to thousands of students who spent countless hours under (the) dome experiencing the excitement of discovery" is a thing of the past.

In the mid-1950s it was dismantled and plastered-over. The 17 front steps leading up to the building and the ornate staircases inside were also removed, as was the defining beauty of the building.

Built in 1910, the Normal Hall originally housed the campus library. For more than 85 years the building has stood as a reminder of the university's proud beginnings and the toll time takes on unkempt buildings.

With the construction of Cunningham Memorial Library in 1973, the library's book storage space was no longer needed. That's when the real deterioration of the building began.

Normal Hall is now open for tours only by appointment. But its deterioration has not gone unnoticed.

The university attempted to get federal or state money to restore the building in 1991, when the university's Master Plan was initiated. When the quest for grant money failed, a private fund-raising effort to remodel Normal Hall began.

That effort was shelved when a change in presidents and other key staff put the restoration project further down on the university's priority list.

But Normal Hall's restoration is once again moving its way up the list. Dennis Graham, treasurer for the university and Board of Trustees, said the project will be included in Phase II of the university's Master Plan, to be implemented in the next few years.

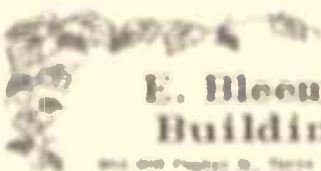


Above: The rotunda of Normal Hall was known for its beautiful dome featuring a reproduction of Raphael's "Philosophy" and 24 stained-glass panels. The panels featured wreathed medallions and burning torches, as well as open books and scales of justice. The dome is supported by marblized columns. The original panels of the dome were dismantled in the mid-1950s and the dome was plastered over.

Left: Normal Hall as it appeared shortly after it was built in 1910. The 17 steps which led up to the front entrance were replaced with a ground-level entrance at the same time the dome was dismantled. In addition, ornate staircases inside the building were torn out and stored away.



It shows (indicated)  
(see)



and 1000 Piquette St. Detroit, Mich.  
1912-1913



The Association reported to the Board of Directors that the Association had been successful in securing the building of the new building and the Association will now have a new building to house the Association's records and the Association's files.

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## WALKING DOWN HISTORY LANE A TOUR OF HISTORICAL LANDMARKS OF DOWNTOWN TERRE HAUTE

A project of the Downtown Business Association  
for Family Learning Day 1997

Downtown Terre Haute was the commercial district of Western Indiana from the time it was just a fort in the early 1800's. Through the years development brought nine railroads passing through town, booming river trade along the Wabash, and the linkage to Indianapolis and points east on the National Road running right through its center. Terre Haute's commercial district was a vibrant economic base for the city into the early 1900's. Construction boomed and various styles of architecture defined the Terre Haute skyline. However, in the name of progress and growth, and as the auto allowed the population to be more mobile, the city spread its boundaries and became more decentralized. Many of our historic structures have lost their luster or disappeared completely in the name of modernization.

Since the incorporation of Terre Haute as a city in 1867 there has been a high concentration of major architectural styles downtown with at least nine outstanding examples represented in a 1/2 block radius: Italianate, Second Empire, Romanesque, Beaux Arts, Renaissance and Classical Revivals (including German, Spanish and Neo-Gothic), Neo-Classicism, Mission, Chicago Commercial, Art Deco and Art Moderne. Over 20 of today's downtown structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1890 downtown Terre Haute boasted of 18 hotels, in 1920 there were only 12 with a total of 1,081 rooms. In 1963 a fire destroyed 10 businesses in 3 buildings on the north side of Wabash between 6th and 7th Streets. These changes downtown required new architectural changes.

Photos can remind us of what we once had, but the necessity of preservation of historic structures takes an awareness that can only be brought about by physical presence of that structure. The members of the Downtown Business Association hope that this brief tour will help increase your awareness of the history of Our Downtown.

### \*INDIANA THEATRE 603 Ohio St.

Spanish Baroque building of brick and terra cotta built in 1921 and opened January 28, 1922 with live peacocks (as the mascot of Paramount Studios) in the lobby. A large peacock design on the outside marquee was removed years later as actors were superstitious about the emblem. Seating up to 2,000, the theatre has the second largest screen in Indiana. John Edson, creator of "atmospheric theatre", designed features such as the marble terrazzo floors in the rounds and the delicately sculpted figures in the lobby ceiling.

### \*SWOPE ART MUSEUM 21 S. 7th St.

Renaissance style, popular between 1875-1920. Built in 1901, the Museum was installed in the upper floors of the Swope Block in 1941 and opened in 1942. Sheldon Swope was a renowned soldier, sportsman, and diamond merchant whose one page will designate the establishment of an art gallery for the city. By Sheldon Swope's instructions, the Swope Art Museum is always free.

### \*CROSSROADS OF AMERICA Intersection of 7th St. and Wabash Ave.

Junction of US 41-The Dixie Highway, which stretched from Chicago to mid-Florida, and US 40-The National Road which stretches from Maryland to Utah. Until the early seventies when US 41 was consolidated into 3rd St. and the mall was built at it's intersection with I-70, Wabash Ave. was the heart of the city. The re-routing of 40 east on Ohio and bypassing Wabash Ave by using Cherry St. southeast, contributed significantly to the downturn of the downtown business district.

### \*MERCANTILE NATIONAL BANK 711 Wabash Ave.

Neo-classical style built in 1908 with limestone pilasters and Greek key design. Peak is the lobby off 7th St. sometimes and check out the restored plaster ceiling and mural.

### \*TRIBUNE BUILDING 721 Wabash Ave.

The Star was the morning paper, the Tribune was published in the afternoon. Very geometric, literal type openings and, originally had deeply projecting eaves. (The building which housed the Star is still at the corner of 6th & Ohio.) The original interior is mainly intact—"Cha Cha East Town here" style.

### \*WABASH CATHEDRAL 615 Wabash Ave.

Neo-classical, built in 1930 & still has its original storefront, although it recently got a new door and windows.

### \*SAINT BENEDICT'S CHURCH 111 S. 9th St. (view from 8th & Wabash)

Romanesque Revival 1896-98 sandstone built by the German immigrants to Terre Haute in 1864. A fire in 1920 destroyed the massive dome that originally crowned this magnificent church.

### \*E. BECKMEL FLOUR AND FEEDS NE corner of 9th and Poplar Sts.

The heart of one of Terre Haute's major industries in the 1850's. Warehouse.

### \*SYMPHONIC (SCOTTISH RITE) 717 Ohio St. (view from 8th & Wabash)

Also designed by Austrian born John Edson. In 1911 on a stage, elephants once performed on its stage. This is the oldest Edson building in the U.S. with ornamentation reminiscent of the German Romanesque style. The home of Terre Haute's Community Theatre from 1911-1947 and Wabash Music House from 1947-1954.

### \*FUSION BUILDING 18 S. 9th St. (view from 8th & Wabash)

Built in 1920 for a car dealership, in a Mission style not usually adopted to commercial buildings of more than a couple stories. First site of Germania Hall, the gymnasium and auditorium of the largest and finest German club in the state of Indiana. Germans were the largest immigrant population of Terre Haute, beginning in the 1840-1850's. (Close proximity to St. Benedict's German church and school.)

### \*HILMAN BUILDING 910 Wabash Ave. (view from 8th & Wabash)

Romanesque arch, monumental, sturdy, grove, value in ruggedness of brick and stone, was designed by Samuel Hannaford & Sons, who also did the Vigo County Courthouse, and opened in 1897. Eugene V. Debs was main speaker at its opening and had formerly worked for Hulman & Co. This massive building anchored the east end of the business district and marked the beginning of a more commercial manufacturing area.



#### \*TERMINAL ARCADE 830 Wabash Ave. (view from 6th & Wabash)

Designed in a Beaux Arts style with grandiose ornamentation and decoration by Daniel Burnham of Chicago for Terra House Trust and Light Co. Burnham was the father of the City Beautiful movement in Chicago. 1893, this building is one of scores of his left standing in Indiana. The Arcade was created by architectural sculptors J.W. Quigley and Fred Fisher and completed in 1901. It was the point of arrival and departure for inter-city service in the city and has been reconstructed several times as a structural terrace, bus station, restaurant and sports bar.

#### \*CHAMBER BRYNAR

Italianate style of 1880 this is one of downtown's few restored storefronts. Note the painted advertisements on the east side - Great Frog. Almost all downtown buildings had painted signs and ads.

#### \*FIRST MARSHMAN BAYVIEW AVENUE/18TH

New classic style of H. Henry of Chicago, built in 1930. Unusual for its circular glass skylight. Note the stone wall and eagle. 1 person. There was once door. Owned by Mahoney & Co.

#### \*FERRIS HALL 700 N. 18TH

Baroque Revival style built in 1927, this is the third building to stand on the site of the original Ferris House built by Chauncey Ross in 1818. Built to be a counterweight to the Courthouse, which is on the other end of downtown. Designed by William Earl Ross of Indianapolis, it was admired as having 250 rooms with ornate windows and the Mayflower Ballroom that could seat 1400. It supplanted the then-popular Daring Hotel as the place for formal and social events. The balcony at the top surrounded a tile roof. The hotel closed in the 1940's.

#### \*FEDERAL BUILDING 70 & Cherry St.

An Italian style, designed by local architect Miller and Yeager who also designed the Terra House City Hall. Built in 1932, it replaced the original Post Office from 1897. The columns from that building are now standing as part of the Chauncey Ross Memorial in Fairbanks Park. Attention windows, Italian American eagles and Egyptian floral motifs.

OPPOSITE FERRIS HALL, 810 N. 18TH, NW corner 70 & Cherry St.

Ross (Chauncey) built in 1844-45 it stood for 70 years before the massive Richardsonian Baroque structure was torn down. It housed facilities for free dental, optical and medical services under provisions of a trust fund set up by Chauncey Ross.

OPPOSITE FERRIS HALL, 810 N. 18TH, SE corner 70 & Cherry St.

Grand Opera House from 1877-1930 held performances for audiences of 1400-1700 people. Well-known celebrities such as Ethel Barrymore performed here.

#### \*MAHONEY BAYVIEW AVENUE/18TH Wabash Ave.

Italianate style popular in the 1880's, tall narrow and slightly arched windows grouped into bays. Older residents remember Martin's Photo Shop (here until the early 70's), Fannie May Candies, The Federal State Shop, Baum's Drugs and Berkowitz Luggage in these stores.

#### OPPOSITE MAHONEY BAYVIEW AVENUE (VIGO) COUNTY SEWER, (CORPORATION)

A block which once held six department stores: Macy, Blois, Montgomery-Ward, J.C. Penney, Raddin and Sears.

#### \*601 WABASH

Currently the Chamber of Commerce this was the former headquarters of Terra House First National Bank and originally built for Union Trust Co. in 1904. Its designer Nelson S. Roman was also known for designing sleeping cars for railroad magnate George Pullman. Remodeled in 1927, the Beaux Arts entry leads into the banking chamber, which is decorated with murals by Vincent Adams. The formal opening on June 18, 1928, was also the day Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic.

#### \*FIRST FINANCIAL PLAZA

International style, built in 1948 to replace a 1928 structure, alternating bands of glass and stone. Plaza sits back from the street front, with public space and landscaping.

#### \*MERRILL CENTER (view from 6th & Wabash)

Originally the Daring Hotel, this 9 story building was completed in 1913, it allegedly dropped and had 250 rooms and 250 baths. In 1976, it became Senior Citizens housing. Today it has about 100 residents, most of whom are on a fixed income.

#### \*SARATOGA 431 Wabash Ave. (view from 6th & Wabash)

Second Empire style built in 1867. The first home of Terra House First National Bank (1868-1905), it is only Empire building still in use other than the Courthouse.

#### \*171 ARCADES BAYVIEW AVENUE, 70 & 18th St. (view from 6th & Ohio)

Built in 1922 for Citizen's Trust Co. these twelve stories are downtown's tallest commercial structure. The base originally had classical revival details which were replaced in the 1930's by the current art deco features. It was completed in 11 months at a cost of \$138,000 and had two high speed elevators. One speculation for the height was for advertising, towering over the 2-story structure next door. Coal companies occupied top rental space, and a cigar store and barber were in the lobby. You can still get your hair cut here.

#### 1st CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 630 Ohio St. (view from 6th & Ohio)

Designed for a congregation founded in 1834 by Trumbull and Jones of Elgin Ill. with alterations made in 1962 by local architect and church member Julian Padilla, cross layout, suitable for square tower, limestone capped buttresses, lancet windows.

#### \*WOODBURN GRAPHICS

Italianate style excellent example of rehabilitated storefront. Built in 1882 and originally housed A.B. McWhinney confectioners, baked goods and imported and domestic fruits. Woodburn Graphics moved into the building in 1970.

#### \*TERRA HOUSE BAYVIEW AVENUE/18TH Ohio St.

Located on this site since 1888, the current building was built in 1911. It originally had six floors but in 1972, the top five floors were removed. The upstairs housed Levin Brothers, a large dry goods wholesaler.

#### \*VIGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE (view from 6th & Ohio)

French Second Empire style completed in 1888 as designed by Samuel Hannaford & Sons. Facade with limestone. It is an example of monumental public architecture. It also houses the two ton Vigo Bell which was purchased in 1875 with \$500 bequeathed by Francis Vigo.

#### \*TERRA HOUSE CITY HALL

Built in an Art Deco style in 1937 by Miller and Yeager. The fountain in the front was installed in 1938.



# FINDING NEW USES FOR HISTORIC SCHOOLS AND THEATRES

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



Vigo County Public Library

Western Regional Meeting of  
Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana  
Held in the Vigo Powerplant Annex  
Saturday, September 12, 1986  
Two Hours, Indiana





# FINDING NEW USES FOR HISTORIC SCHOOLS AND THEATRES

A regional conference for persons, organizations and communities working to find new uses for historic schools and theatres. The conference will discuss a number of issues and options for finding new uses for these historic assets.

**Saturday, September 15, 1986**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Woodrow Wilson Junior High School**  
**501 South 25th Street**  
**Terre Haute, Indiana**

## Sponsored by:

The Western Regional Office of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Indiana's only statewide preservation organization, is dedicated to promoting preservation, conservation and restoration as the best means of sustaining the quality of the state's historical and architectural resources. The 4,000 member nonprofit Foundation maintains its headquarters in a restored landmark, the former Waiting Station of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. Staffed regional offices in Cambridge City, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, South Bend and Greencastle extend Historic Landmarks' advisory services and programs throughout the state. Last year Historic Landmarks celebrated 25 years of service.

## Hosted By:

The Vigo Preservation Alliance

The Vigo Preservation Alliance is one of the seven and more active local preservation organizations in the state. The Alliance has been actively working toward the restoration of the DeWitt-Prescott-Smith House and the preservation of the Big Four Railroad Depot in Terre Haute. The organization is also responsible for stimulating public awareness of preservation issues in the Vigo County area.

## With Support From:

Graphic Systems, Inc.  
 Vigo County School Corporation

**KEY SPEAKER—Senator Dan Quayle**  
 Huntington, Quayle received his B.A. in politics from DePauw University in 1969 and earned his law degree from the Indiana University School of Law in 1972. In 1980, Dan Quayle was elected as the youngest Republican ever chosen to represent Indiana in the U.S. Senate. Quayle had previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives. Senator Quayle serves on the Budget, Armed Services, and Human Resources Committees.

**9:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Registration  
**9:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Welcome—A preview of the day's sessions and an introduction to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Mr. Charles Nichols, Director of Preservation Services.  
**10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Movie: *Back to School to Live*  
**10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Panel Discussion: Adaptive Reuse of Schools  
**11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Break  
**11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Tour of Woodrow Wilson Junior High School and Corporate Center  
**12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch—Keynote Speaker: Senator Dan Quayle  
**1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.** "The History of Indiana Theatres"  
 —Mr. Gene Gladson  
**2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Reuse of Historic Theatres  
**3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** Break  
**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Tour of the Indiana Theatre and the Scotch Box Auditorium  
**5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Adjournment

## PANELISTS

Adaptive Reuse of Schools	Panelist	Topic
Mr. F. Miles Kappes	Powers-Kappes/Architecture	Adapting Schools for Office Space
Mr. Jim Kinsle	Architects Div. of IEDTB	Adapting Schools for Housing
Mr. James Peck	Superintendent, Greencastle Community Schools	Rehabilitating the Older School for Future Reuse and Adapting the Older School for new Educational Purposes: Miller School
Speaker To Be Announced		Adapting Schools for New Community Uses: Colfax School, South Bend
Adaptive Reuse of Theatres	Panelist	Topic
Mr. Thomas W. Salmon II	The Wexley Group	Conducting a Feasibility Study: The Pantheon Theatre, Vancouver
Ms. Linda Schuckelford		Restoration of the Vevay Theatre, Vevay
Ms. Vicki Wallis		Restoration and Continued Use of the County Opera House, Lewisville
Mr. Jim Kinsle	Architects Div. of IEDTB	Restoration of the Circle Theatre, Indianapolis
Mr. Camille B. Pike	The Wexley Group	Marketing and Finding New Uses for a Restored Theatre

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 3, 1986

To order or send additional requests, you will not receive a confirmation of your registration. It will be on file at the registration desk on the day of the conference. Should you have any questions, call Bill Dorey at Historic Landmarks Foundation 317-653-0027.

## TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE

Registration Deadline: September 3, 1986

Clip and mail with check or money order to:  
 Conference  
 Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana  
 14 South Indiana Street  
 Greencastle, IN 46115

Make checks payable to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

## Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For multiple registrations, please attach list

Registration fee: \$20.00 per person  
 (includes luncheon buffet and conference)  
 Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## AN OPEN INVITATION:

Conference participants are invited to attend THE DARRINGTON'S GROVE CELEBRATION September 16, 1986 South and Washington Streets in Terre Haute

## Events for the Day

9:00 a.m. - Historical Society Flea Market  
 4:00 p.m. - Children's Parade  
 2:00 p.m. - Presentation of Plaque for the Listing of the Darrington's Grove Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places  
 2:45 p.m. - Old Fashioned Cake Walk and Ice Cream Social



*Historic Landmarks (WV) 2/01*

# Walking Wabash

Exploring  
Historical Landmarks  
of Downtown  
Terre Haute



April 1999 Reprinting  
made possible by  
Downtown Terre Haute, Inc. and  
Terre Haute Urban  
Enterprise Association, Inc.



TERRE HAUTE, PLATTED IN 1816, was incorporated as a town in 1832 and as a city in 1853. The original plat, consisting of 268 in-lots, extended east from the navigable Wabash River to Fifth Street, north to Eagle Street and south to Swan Street. Third Street was Market Street, 34 feet wider than most other avenues. Though Wabash Avenue was Main Street, it ended as a wilderness trail until Cumberland Road surveyors met it October 16, 1827. By 1838, the road, recently certified as a National Scenic Byway, reached Terre Haute.

Courthouse Square was the community's hub. Between 1834 and 1836, a branch of the State Bank of Indiana was erected on Ohio Street. By 1843, more than 100 businesses encircled the square. Chauncey Rose's Prairie House Hotel, at the present Terre Haute House site, was too far out in the country to draw many visitors and closed. Pioneer mansions gradually were raised along Ohio and Cherry streets near the commerce center. Churches and private schools were built in the periphery. Pork processing, milling, distilling, brewing, steamboat and barge traffic gave the village a busy aura. Laborers surveyed and laid the National Road. The anticipated arrival of the Wabash & Erie Canal brought more settlers. The largest manmade body of water built in the Western Hemisphere did not reach Terre Haute until October 25, 1849, but the town already was designated the official headquarters, a rank it retained until canal land was sold at auction in February 1876.

Barely two years after packet boats were common, Terre Haute began its century-long reign as a railroad hub. The maiden rail junket occurred February 14, 1852, on the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad, headed by Chauncey Rose. Since its debut, at least 11 railroads have served the community, nine at the same time. The Civil War curtailed pork trade with the South, which had reached its peak in 1852. But railways activated demand for the region's other natural resources: coal, iron ore and oil. By 1867, the Terre Haute Street Railway delivered Indiana State Fair tourists to the new east Wabash fairgrounds.

Downtown expanded. Theaters and vaudeville houses were situated in nearly every block. Hotels and sulfur spas flourished, particularly when tourists visited the city's famous Four-Cornered Track or one of its prominent opera houses. Educational institutions added culture. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (1840), Terre Haute Female College (1858), St. Agnes Hall (1863), Indiana State University (1865), Saint Bonaventure College (1876), Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (1877) and Coates College for Women (1885) attracted students from every state. Craft unions thrived. A convention that resulted in the American Federation of Labor met in an old church on the northeast corner of Fifth and Ohio streets in August 1881. The Vigo County Courthouse, dedicated June 7, 1888, anchors downtown's western vista.

By 1893, Terre Haute flaunted nine newspapers, four on South Fifth Street in Newspaper Row. Garment factories made clothes for workers. Hudnut Hominy Co. first marketed oil extracted from grain here in 1899. Before Prohibition, the city boasted the world's first- and third-largest distilleries, the nation's seventh-largest brewery, three major glass factories, iron and steel works, foundries, flour and woolen mills, food processing plants, wholesale grocery houses and several mammoth department stores. By 1904, trains made 104 daily passenger stops at three depots. The electric interurban was a transportation force by 1907, augmented in 1911 by a handsome terminal.

Railroads replaced canal packets; automobiles supplanted wagons; trucks and airplanes displaced the trains. Interstate 70 radically altered auto traffic, severely transforming downtown. Most structures described in this brochure were erected during the "Golden Era," 1875-1925. Amid the brick and mortar are many tales of a noble city with an extraordinary heritage optimistically embarking into the 21st century.



**1 TERRE HAUTE HOUSE\***—Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue. Opened in 1928, this Renaissance Revival landmark in the northeast quadrant of the "Crossroads of America" succeeded the Prairie House, erected in 1838 by Chauncey Rose and expanded and remodeled several times, particularly in 1888-89. Rose renamed his hotel the Terre Haute House in 1854. Much lore originates from the hotel, its Mayflower Room and Marine Room, as well as its predecessor, McKeen Block, later Fairbanks Block (cover), was in the northwest quadrant of the intersection between 1885 and 1966.

**2 MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK\***—701 Wabash Avenue. Completed by **TERRE HAUTE TRUST CO.** in 1908, this Neoclassical Chicago-style bank in the southeast quadrant of the "Crossroads of America" replaced Baur's Pharmacy, a longtime landmark. Swiss-born patriarch John Jacob Baur's children included Jacob, founder of Liquid Carbonics Inc.; Charles, owner of the Terre Haute House; Oscar, who revitalized the Terre Haute Brewing Co. after Prohibition; and Arthur, pharmacy proprietor after his father's death. John Jacob's step-daughter married Eugene V. Debs.

**3 TRIBUNE BUILDING\***—721-725 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1914-15, when Crawford Fairbanks owned *The Tribune*, this Chicago Commercial six-story office building replaced several businesses including the Nickledom Theater at 721 Wabash. Eastward expansion integrated the 1908 superstructure at 729 Wabash which housed the **VARIETIES THEATER** for vaudeville and the **LIBERTY THEATER** for motion pictures.

**4 FORT HARRISON SAVINGS ASSOCIATION\***—724 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1926, this Neoclassical structure includes an oval skylight and an eagle and state seal on its façade. A pedestal clock once stood on the sidewalk in front of the building. It was east of the Lyric Theater, a vaudeville house later converted into the Orpheum Theater (720-722 Wabash).

**5 REA BUILDING\***—726-730 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1889 by William S. Rea to house **BEMENT & REA** wholesale grocery, in 1910 it was converted under architect Merrill Sherman into a commercial building after Bement, Rea & Co. moved to a new structure at 30 North Eighth. **McMILLAN SPORTS** occupied 726 Wabash.

**6 STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING\***—30 North Eighth Street. After George W. Bement's death in 1903, William S. Rea built this building to house the **BEMENT, REA & CO.** wholesale grocery business.

**7 CHASE BISTRO\***—814 Wabash Avenue. Built in the late 1870s, this Italianate restaurant/saloon building has been preserved to reveal a painted advertisement on its east exterior wall. **BURNS & NUGENT** may have been its first restaurant, followed by **JACOB HAGER'S FISH AND OYSTER BAR**. For years it housed Steve Oltean's **OFFICE TAVERN**.

**8 WABASH CIGAR STORE**—815 Wabash Avenue. Built in the 1890s, this Neoclassical building originally was **AUGUST HOBERG'S** notions store. From 1907 to 1945, the block catered to interurban customers with small shops (barber, shoeshine, tobacco), restaurants, billiard parlors and the American Theater, now Morris Plan. The **WALDORF POOL HALL** was here before 1969 when the Wabash Cigar Store was at 813 Wabash.

**9 TERMINAL SPORTS & SPIRITS\***—820 Wabash Avenue. Completed in 1911 for the **TERRE HAUTE, INDIANAPOLIS & EASTERN TRACTION CO.**, this Wallmer Bedford limestone Classical Beaux Arts depot was designed by nationally renowned Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham as western headquarters for Indiana's second-biggest interurban. Burnham also designed terminals in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis. Indiana boasted more interurban track than any state except Ohio between 1900 and 1940. After 1949, the building was the local bus terminal until 1970.

**10 HULMAN & CO.**—900 Wabash Avenue. Completed in 1893, this brick and stone structure with rugged Romanesque arches was designed

by Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford. More than 5,000 people attended the grand opening of the largest wholesale grocery house in Indiana. Col. Ward W. Thompson, secretary of navy under President Hayes; Thomas May Nelson, President Lincoln's ambassador to Chile and President Grant's ambassador to Mexico; Col. William E. McLean, chief deputy commissioner of pensions under President Cleveland; and former Hulman & Company employee Eugene V. Debs were among the featured speakers.

**1 FUSON BUILDING**—18 South Ninth Street. Built in 1920, its Mission style was typical to multistory commercial buildings. It succeeded Turner Hall and Germania Hall, once Indiana's largest German Club. The building is significant for its German influence: Hulman & Co.; St. Benedict's German Catholic Church, Friary, and School; E. Bleemel Flour & Feed; Matthias Mogger's Brewery; and Anton Mayer's Terre Haute Brewing Co. The Freidrich Hoffmann (822 Ohio), George Reiss (823 Ohio\*) and Louis Kabiner (827 Ohio\*) homes nearby survive from the 1880s.

**2 ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL AND MASONIC MUSEUM\***—727 Ohio Street. Built as the 1,000-seat **HIPPODROME** vaudeville theater in 1915-16 by Theodore Barhydt and designed by famed Austrian-born designer John Ebersson and architect John Reed Barhydt, it hosted stars of legitimate stage—including Valeska Suratt, Skeets Gallagher, Ross Ford and Alvy Moore, prominent Terre Haute stage, screen and television personalities. The Community Theater of Terre Haute staged its productions in this building from 1931 to 1947, when it was converted into the **WABASH**, a motion picture theater. The Scottish Rite acquired the theater about 1956. It is reputed to be the oldest Ebersson German Renaissance style building extant in America.

**13 INDIANA THEATER\***—683 Ohio Street. Dedicated January 28, 1922, this extraordinary Spanish Baroque terra cotta and brick theater was built by Theodore Barhydt and designed by Austrian-born architect John Ebersson. Anchoring the east end of a block once designated Mansion Row, the theater, featuring marble terrazzo floors in the rotunda and sculpted figures in the ceiling, boasts the second-largest motion picture screen in Indiana and seats 1,660 people. The building's original cost was \$750,000.

**14 SWOPE BLOCK\***—25 South Seventh Street. Completed in 1901 as a professional office building by diamond merchant Sheldon Swope, this Renaissance Revival structure with Kentucky Green River stone façade has been the home of **SWOPE ART MUSEUM**, a premiere art museum, since 1942. It once housed Wabash Business College and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The bronze entry doors were especially cast by Ellison & Co. of Jamestown, New York. A few doors west (666-674 Ohio), the Ohio Building (1905), recently the Martin House cafeteria, initially housed the American-German Trust Co. and Harry M. Spang Real Estate. For several decades, the European-style Hotel Tuller occupied the second floor.

**15 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH\***—630 Ohio Street. Dedicated in 1903, it was the fourth edifice built by a congregation founded in 1834 by the Rev. M. Augustus Jewett. During the Civil War, noted author-editor Lyman Abbott was pastor. Its limestone-capped buttresses and lancet windows were designed by Terre Haute architect Juliet Peddle as part of a 1962 addition.

[Though the First Congregational Church is the only church described in this brochure, other churches in the downtown area are worthy of inspection: St. Benedict's Catholic Church (1899), St. Joseph's Catholic Church (1912), Central Presbyterian Church (1863), St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1862), Centenary United Methodist Church (1917), German Immanuel Lutheran Church\* (1885) and the Allen Chapel African Methodist-Episcopalian Church\* (1914). Also notable is the 1888 St. Joseph's Male Academy (105 South Fifth).]

**16 FEDERAL BUILDING\***—30 North Seventh Street. Built in 1932 to replace the 1887 Federal Building, this Art Deco structure was

designed by Terre Haute architects Miller & Yeager. Besides housing the community's main post office until 1997, as well as other federal offices, it accommodates a division of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. "The Signing of Magna Charta" by muralist Frederick Webb Ross on the second floor courtroom wall is worthy of inspection.

**17 KAUFMAN BLOCK\***—673-683 Wabash Avenue. This large Italianate structure built by grocer Andrew Kaufman in about 1865 in the southwest quadrant of the "Crossroads of America" has sheltered the **CRESCENT THEATER**, **WADE DUNCAN'S CAFE**, **BAUR'S DRUG STORE**, **STRUPP DENTAL LABORATORY**, **THE BON TON**, **THE FEDERAL BAKE SHOP**, **PATSY MAHANEY'S CONFECTIONERY**, **FANNIE MAY'S CANDIES**, **BERKOWITZ LUGGAGE**, **BOOKNATION** and **MARTIN'S PHOTO SHOP** among others. Immediately west was the Bindley Block (661-669 Wabash), formerly home of the Princess Theater and Levinson's, built by wholesale druggist Edward H. Bindley.

**18 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**—643-645 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1904 for **UNITED STATES TRUST CO.** and designed by Solon S. Beman, the building was remodeled in 1927 when it merged into **TERRE HAUTE FIRST NATIONAL BANK**. Its Beaux Arts entry leads into a chamber decorated with murals by Italian artist Vincente Aderante. It served as Terre Haute First's main office until completion of First Financial Plaza, an impressive International style facility with alternating bands of glass and stone, in 1988. The Chamber of Commerce was in the Jacobean Revival office building at 623-639 Cherry, still known as the Chamber of Commerce Building\*.

**19 PAWN-IT**—622 Wabash Avenue. This 1880s commercial building has seen a variety of uses from **SACKS & ROTTMAN'S** tobacco store and **JAME-WOLF** women's clothing.

**20 DEMING CENTER\***—29 North Sixth Street. Built by "Boy Banker" Demas Deming Jr., the popular **HOTEL DEMING** opened October 18, 1914, at the original Congregational Church site. South of the hotel, the philanthropist erected an office building with storefronts and Ten Pins Bowling, known as Deming Block, destroyed in a downtown fire in 1963.

**21 KOOPMAN BUILDING\*/THIEMANN OFFICE SUPPLIES/ESQUIRE BARBER SHOP**—32-34 North Sixth Street. Built in 1876 by leather dealer Bernard Koopman, this Italianate building housed **KOOPMAN'S LEATHER SHOP** and **NEHF'S HARDWARE**, among many businesses.

**22 SYCAMORE BUILDING\***—19 South Sixth Street. Opened in 1922 as the **CITIZENS TRUST CO.** with two state-of-the-art elevators, this building was erected in 11 months for about \$318,000. It remains Terre Haute's tallest building with 12 stories. Its original Classical Revival style base was replaced by Art Deco features popular in the 1930s but the building, including the first-floor barber shop, is much the same. Now owned by Sunset Harbor Inc., the entryway includes a memorial to local pharmacist Conrad Herber, whose widow, Emma, once owned the building.

**23 WOODBURN GRAPHICS\***—25 South Sixth Street. Built before 1859 by Dr. George W. Patrick, this Italianate building was owned for 32 years by merchant Major B. Hudson. In 1882, it was leased to **A.B. MEWHINNEY CO.**, the confectioner that introduced the candy bon bon to America. **VIGUESNEY CO.** and one of its principals, T. Ross Woodburn, founder of **WOODBURN PRINTING**, leased half of the building in 1902. Woodburn Printing bought the structure in 1948. In 1964, the company acquired 508-510 Ohio\*, an 1891 Italianate structure built by Deloss Minshall divided into five bays by cast-iron pilasters. **HEBB & GOODWINE** printing occupied one section; **SAMUEL FRANK & CO.**, one of the city's large garment manufacturers, had the other.

**24 BLUMBERG BUILDING\*/NASSER FURNITURE**—526 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1912 by the philanthropic Blumberg family, which also owned Kaufman Block and the Meis Building, its Chicago Commercial

oolitic limestone façade reflects its original rosettes but not its name. The building was home for several furniture stores, particularly **SILVERSTEIN BROTHERS** and **FAIR FURNITURE**. It was next to McKeen Bank (530 Wabash), a landmark designed by Italian-born Terre Haute architect Charles Eppinghausen that flaunted imported statues of Minerva and Mercury.

**25 READMORE\***—524 Wabash Avenue. Originally the **SWOPE-NEHF JEWELRY CO.**, this 1880s Romanesque Revival building survived the tragic December 18, 1898, Havens & Geddes Co. fire.

**26 READMORE\***—522 Wabash Avenue. The Ford & Overstreet men's clothing store did not survive the Havens & Geddes fire but Augustus Ford replaced it with this building in 1899. **SHERMAN MEN'S STORE** was here for many years.

**27 ELLIS PLAZA\***—518-520 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1896 for **W.H. ALBRECHT & CO.** after the 1896 Naylor Opera House fire ravaged its previous quarters, on December 19, 1898, the Havens & Geddes Co. fire virtually destroyed the new building. In the second inferno, 18-year-old department store Santa Claus Claude Herbert, fire Capt. John Osterloo, Henry Nehf and Kate Maloney died. All but the spectacular Romanesque Revival Green River façade was rebuilt by building owners Max Hoberg and Sheldon Swope in time for reopening in July 1899. Terre Haute's Transit Utility will rededicate the Claude Herbert Memorial fountain at Fifth and Wabash one century after the fire.

**28 COX, ZWERNER, GAMBILL & SULLIVAN\***—511-513 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1893 by the **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TERRE HAUTE**, it served as a downtown branch bank for many years. The current occupant has tastefully rehabilitated it.

**29 ANDREA'S FINE FOOTWEAR**—515 Wabash Avenue. Built in the early 1850s, one of the oldest downtown structures—once a part of Mechanics Row—has housed many tenants. Beginning in the late 1870s, the **T.H. RIDDLE VARIETY** occupied the entire building.

**30 TOFAUTE & SPELMAN**—20 South Fifth Street. Built about 1882, this building in Terre Haute's renowned Newspaper Row retains much of its original exterior. Between 1880 and 1900, as many as five of the city's nine newspapers were housed in this block. *The Saturday Evening Mail*, started by Maj. Orlando J. Smith in the building immediately north (then three stories high), was the primary tenant. After Smith moved to Chicago, where he founded The Associated Press, his successor, Perry S. Westfall, moved *The Mail* to this building. For a few years, the second floor harbored an early Hebrew synagogue. Other buildings in this block housed newspapers but their façades have changed.

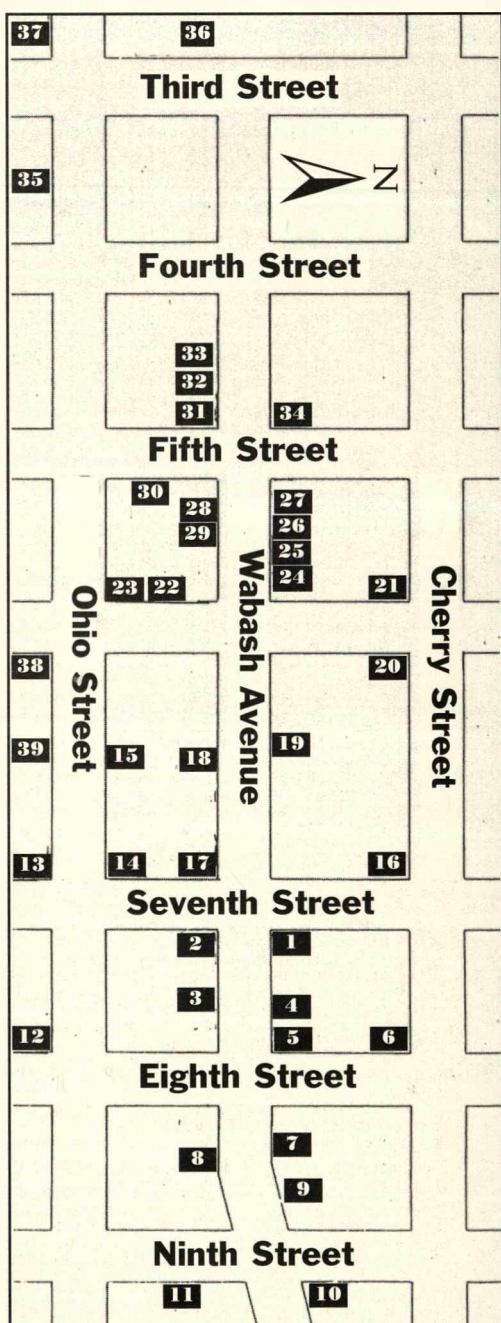
**31 SARATOGA RESTAURANT\***—431 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1867, this French Second Empire structure was first occupied by **NATIONAL STATE BANK** and then **TERRE HAUTE NATIONAL BANK**, predecessors of Terre Haute First National Bank. **TOWNSLEY STOVE CO.** was also here. After the Malooley brothers acquired the Saratoga in the early 1940s, the business expanded west to include the building that housed **SIMEON CORY HARDWARE** (the town of Cory is named for him) and **PENTECOST & CRAFT HARDWARE**.

**32 CARR, BELL & BAUERMEISTER BLOCK\*/NASSER JEWELRY/COFFEE GROUNDS**—421-423 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1890, the east storefront of this Victorian Renaissance edifice was home to **ADOLPH ARNOLD'S** men's furnishings for 30 years. **A&W ROOT BEER** later occupied it. **STRAUSS MILLINERY** was at 421 Wabash. The third floor was Masonic Lodge 86's hall.

**33 MARIANNA BUILDING/BIO MEDICAL CENTER**—417 Wabash Avenue. The 1900 Neoclassical building, probably built by hatter John Sykes, was the home of **MAX SHOWERS' CLOTHING** as well as upstairs offices, for four decades. **SEIBERT, GOOD & CO. BARGAIN STORE** preceded it.



Buildings listed with an \* are in the National Register of Historic Places



Thanks for help in producing this brochure goes to  
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**1** **WHITE BLOCK/ORMAN BUILDING\***—424-430 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1899, after the Havens and Geddes Co. fire destroyed THORMAN SCHLOSS clothing's 1867 building, the corner Romanesque Revival edifice with domed tower designed by architect John G. Vrydagh for William H. White housed offices, retail shops and the KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS. In 1895, WILLIS WRIGHT'S BIG FURNITURE STORE occupied 422-426 Wabash. Later, CHARLES W. HAMILL'S and FOUNTAIN THEATER occupied 426 Wabash. Farther west (420 Wabash) were J.B. Walsh Shoe Co. and, then, Fred J. Biel's Cigar Factory, where "Punch" greeted visitors at the door. Naylor Opera House anchored the west end of this block from 1870 to 1896.

**35** **MODESITT BUILDING**—319-325 Ohio Street. THE AIRDOME was built in 1904 by playwright Samuel Young as Terre Haute's first open-air vaudeville theater. Before 1920 it was converted into the YOUNG OFFICE BUILDING. DOWNTOWN CHEVROLET and DAHL MOTORS occupied the ground floor. Young also owned the extinct Savoy Theater (323 Wabash) and the Indois Hotel (204 Wabash). He also built the Young Building at 817 Ohio (now Viquesney's). His namesake father founded Youngstown.

**36** **VIGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE\***—33 South Third Street. Built between 1884 and 1888, this French Second Empire limestone building designed by Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford was placed in the middle of Court Square. The Soldiers and Sailors Civil War monument erected in 1909-10 on the northeast corner of Court Square was sculpted by Rudolph Schwarz for \$22,000. Col. Richard W. Thompson's bust on the grounds was dedicated in 1906.

**37** **KESLER BUILDING\***—219 Ohio Street. Built as a branch of the SECOND STATE BANK OF INDIANA between 1834 and 1836, Terre Haute's oldest commercial building has seen a variety of uses since 1867. Before it became MEMORIAL HALL early in this century, this Greek Revival structure with columns was the Palace of Music operated by Lorenz Kussner. The Kussner family lived on the second floor. According to legend, Amalia Kussner—the world's foremost miniature portrait painter—sketched street scenes from its second story window as a youth. At the turn of the century, it was an antique shop. In 1910 it became headquarters for the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1921-22, baker Jerry Fitzgerald spearheaded financing of its renovation and rear expansion. Art glass portraits of 17 noteworthy Terre Haute citizens are installed in the ceiling dome.

**38** **STAR BUILDING\***—601-603 Ohio Street. Built in 1913, this Chicago Commercial building housed the *Terre Haute Star*—a descendant of the *Wabash Daily Express* (1851)—before the newspaper was acquired by the Tribune Publishing Co. in 1937. Capt. James Wasson's estate was at this site. After Wasson's death in 1840, Beebe and Hannah Booth lived here with their precocious children, including son Newton, later governor and U.S. senator from California, and Elizabeth, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author Booth Tarkington's mother. Beebe and Hannah Booth moved to the existing building at 607 Ohio, owned by son Newton, in 1874.

**39** **MACE SERVICE POWER HOUSE**—629 Ohio Street (rear). From 1847 to 1876, Terre Haute was headquarters for the Wabash & Erie Canal. Four downtown sites housed the canal's chief office at different times. In 1853, a mansion was built for that purpose. The carriage house associated with that building, later wholesale grocer George W. Bement's residence, now houses a power plant. In 1864, resident canal trustee Thomas Dowling moved canal headquarters to Dowling Hall, an entertainment palace. In 1922, Dowling Hall was replaced by the Chanticleer Building\* (20-26 North Sixth), with its Spanish Colonial Revival façade.

Terre Haute's rich heritage extends beyond downtown. For brochures describing other historical points of interest, visit the Terre Haute Convention and Visitors Bureau of Vigo County in the Chamber of Commerce at 643-645 Wabash Avenue.



# Welcome to Casa Urbana in the Ohio Building

- The Ohio Building was originally two buildings.
- In 1906 the German American Trust was the first structure built in 1906-1907. This was the east half of the building.
- In 1907 William "Buff" Kaufman a local grocer began building the western half of the building.
- In 1913 the first advertisement for the Hotel Tuller appeared in the City Directory.
- There were a total of 40 rooms in the hotel.
- In 1950 the Goodie Shop Cafeteria moved into the first floor of the building and the hotel closed and was sealed off.
- Construction on "Casa Urbana" began on May 17<sup>th</sup> of 2004.
- Over 400 tons of materials were removed – this does not include 12 layers of roofing or any of the restaurant equipment.
- Casa Urbana is 13,000 square feet. The garage, storage area on the first floor and basement add an additional 5,000 square feet.
- There are 7 HVAC units with seven zones. Plus a forced air heater in the garage, and a separate unit in the penthouse.
- There are 5 indoor fireplaces and 1 on the roof.
- There are 4 full and 5 half baths.
- There are 3 different species of hardwood used in the flooring: Pine, oak, and walnut.
- The elevator foyer has 11 species of wood and was voted 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the International Harwood Floor Associations annual contest.
- The entry stairs have 22 steps.
- Under the hardwood floors in the east building is there is second hardwood floor. (When the second story was converted to a hotel the plumbing was installed on top of the existing floor and a new floor was placed on top)
- The tulip globes in the Ballroom are original to the building. (Except for the 8 globes in the 4 corners).

Thank you for visiting Casa Urbana,  
David J. Adams and Al Ruckriegel

Community Affairs File

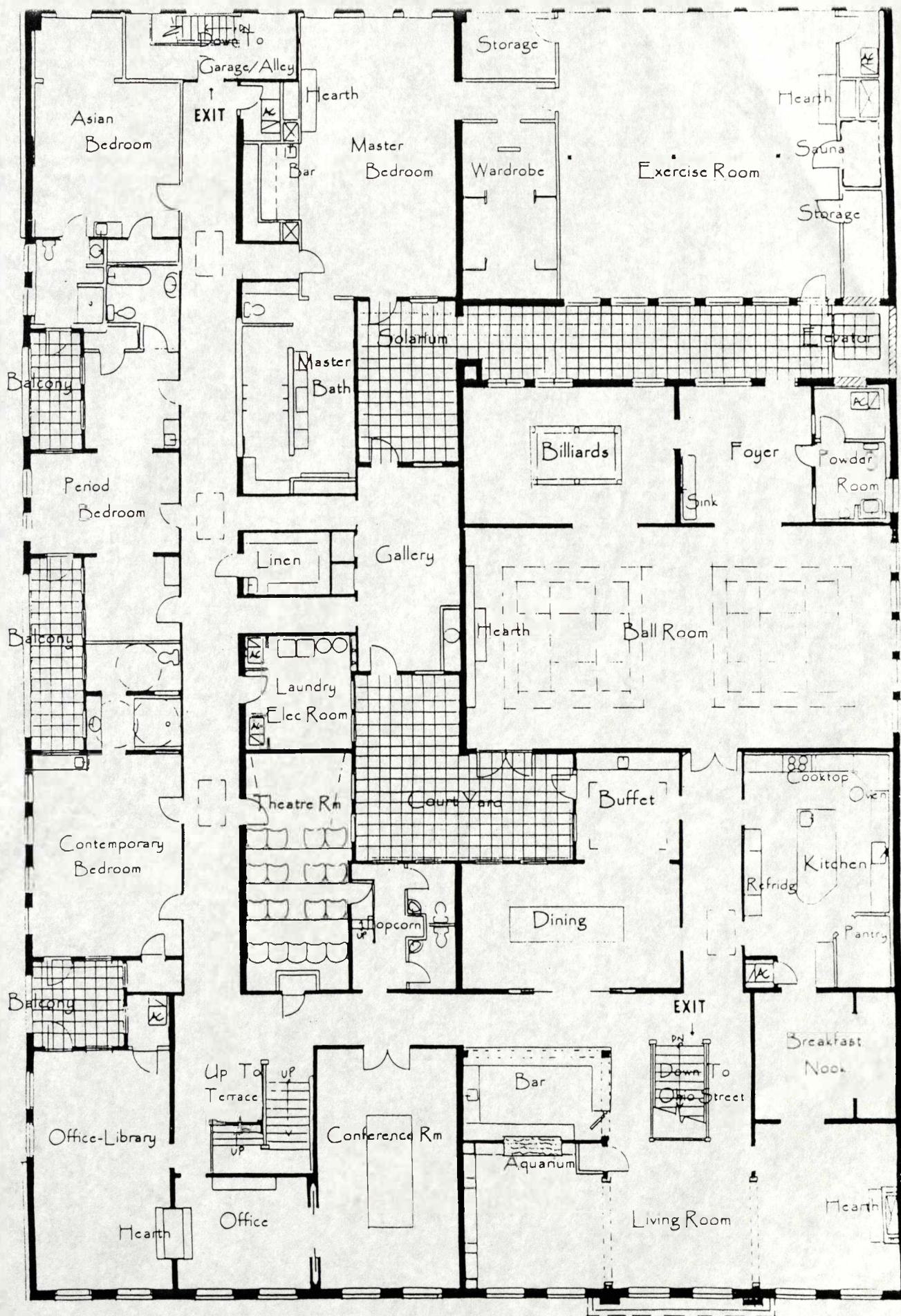
Historic Landmarks (LW)  
Ohio Building  
7/13/05



Community Affairs File

Historic Landmarks (LHV)  
Ohio Building

7/13/05



The Ohio Building

672 Ohio Street

Proposed Upper Level Plan